Anosmia = a partial or full loss of smell

- Most commonly associated with age
- May not be able to smell one thing, a group of things or not at all.
- Some are born with it: Congenital anosmia
  - Kallmann Syndrome: late/no puberty onset and anosmia
  - Congenital insensitivity to pain
  - Isolated congenital anosmias

Causes

Anosmia can happen from a disturbance in at any step of the smelling process, from nasal intake of molecules to signal transduction to central processing.

Some causes of anosmia:
- Head trauma
- Some medications
- Viral infections
- Genetic (congenital anosmia)

Congenital Anosmia

Pathology

- Although the disease is highly heritable, no gene mutations have yet been identified to cause the disorder in humans.
- 3 categories:
  - Malformations in the nasal cavity
    - Absence of olfactory epithelium
    - Lack of sensory neurons, or lack of cilia to receive signals
  - Malformations of the brain essential for olfaction
    - Olfactory bulb
    - Piriform cortex
    - Orbitofrontal cortex
  - Disrupted signal transduction

There is no known cure or treatment for congenital anosmia.
Anosmia. National Health Service. Website.


Congenital anosmia. National Institute of Health Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center.

