

HEARING AIDS

AND WHY YOU MAY NEED THEM

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What is a hearing aid?

- A hearing aid is a device designed to help with speech understanding
- A hearing aid is that, an aid. It can only help you hear and understand what your ears and brain allow it to.

Hearing Aid Styles



RITE



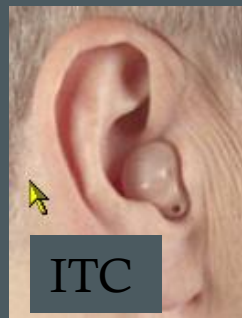
Slim
tube
BTE



BTE



CIC



ITC



ITE

Hearing aid styles

- The hearing aid style needed is dependent on a few different factors
 - Hearing loss configurations
 - Ear anatomy
 - Preference



Different Manufacturers

- All manufacturers make great hearing aids
- Hearing aids only work as well as the person who is fitting the device
 - Target prescription vs. personal preference in sound
- Some people will do better with one manufacturer vs. another.
 - If you try one and it does not work well, do not give up!

Hearing aid processing

- A hearing aid is like a mini computer.
 - It is programmed to amplify certain frequencies
 - How much amplification is given at each pitch is determined by your hearing loss and how the hearing aid is fit
 - Different levels of technology determine how quickly the computer chip functions and how well it can reduce background noise
 - The different levels you may need is dependent on your lifestyle

Over the counter hearing aids (OTC hearing aids)

- Available over the counter without a prescription
- Patient programs the devices themselves
- Not frequency specific programming
- No sophisticated noise reduction capabilities
- Similar to a standard amplifier

Why are hearing aids important?

- Research suggest untreated hearing loss can harm ones overall health
 - Isolation
 - Depression
 - Early onset dementia
- Once hearing is gone, it does not recover
 - Best to intervene as early as possible to keep the pathway healthy for as long as we can

Suspecting hearing loss?

- Get an appointment with your local audiologist
- Complete a hearing test
- Discuss your lifestyle and hearing needs during the appointment
- Listen to the recommendations of the audiologist and make the best decision for yourself!

THANK YOU!

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