

Hearing Aids - Frequently Asked Questions

Should I get a hearing aid?

Have your friends or family been suggesting that this would be a good idea? Do you feel that people are mumbling? Before you purchase any hearing aid, see a qualified audiologist. Your audiologist will test your hearing and make the appropriate recommendations. If you are a hearing aid candidate, your audiologist will guide you through the selection process.

I have been told that hearing aids will not help nerve deafness. Is this true?

Medical intervention usually does not cure nerve deafness but in most cases it can be helped through properly fitted amplification. A hearing test done by a qualified audiologist will help identify what type of hearing loss you have.

Do I need two hearing aids?

People hear better with two ears than with one. Binaural hearing improves your ability to understand speech in noise and helps you to locate the sounds around you.

Can I get hearing aids that filter out background noise?

Understanding of speech, especially in noisy environments, will vary depending upon your degree of hearing loss, how well the hearing aids have been fitted, how frequently the hearing aids are used, and the level of noise in the environment relative to conversational speech. Many recent developments in hearing aid design help you to cope with adverse listening situations.

Will I have to let my hair grow long to cover two large hearing aids in my ears?

In recent years, hearing aids have become smaller and more cosmetically appealing. Your audiologist can review the style choices appropriate for your hearing loss and personal preferences.

Will hearing aids restore my hearing to normal?

Hearing aids are designed to aid hearing but they cannot restore hearing. They are only a part of the hearing rehabilitation process. Your audiologist will help you with all aspects of your journey towards better hearing.

Are hearing aids too expensive for me?

Your hearing aids could be the best investment you make for yourself. Good communication is fundamental to all our personal relationships. The variety of hearing instruments available makes it very likely that you will be able to find good amplification in a comfortable price range.

What about using the telephone?

Often, as a hearing aid wearer, when you place a telephone receiver to your ear your hearing aid makes an unpleasant whistling noise. Luckily, there are several options available to help you successfully use a telephone with hearing aids.

A telecoil option in a hearing aid uses the electromagnetic energy produced by the telephone and eliminates the annoying whistling or feedback. The hearing aid may switch automatically into telecoil mode when a telephone receiver is brought to the ear or it may have a manual switch allowing you to choose this option when using the phone.

Many hearing aids also offer wireless connectivity. In a wireless system, your hearing aid can connect to a Bluetooth enabled phone to allow the audio signal coming from the phone to be routed directly to your hearing aid instead. With a wireless telephone option, you will receive a stable and amplified signal from the phone and will no longer need to press the phone directly next to your ear.



Do I have to wear my hearing aids all the time?

You haven't heard well for a long time and you have adapted to imperfect hearing. You have to relearn what "normal hearing" is and one of the best ways to achieve this is to wear the hearing aids as much as possible, as consistently as possible during waking hours. You may have to increase wearing time gradually in the beginning but full time use is the ultimate goal. Your audiologist will help you to accomplish this.

How do I care for my hearing aids?

Very little care is required. You must keep the hearing aids clean and dry. Every 10 to 14 days fresh batteries must be inserted. Your audiologist will show you how to do these things when you get the hearing aids for the first time and you will be given an extensive user guide for use at home. Many hearing aid manufacturers also offer online instructional videos for hearing aid users.