

A List of Some Important Points

“ Ah—Silence”

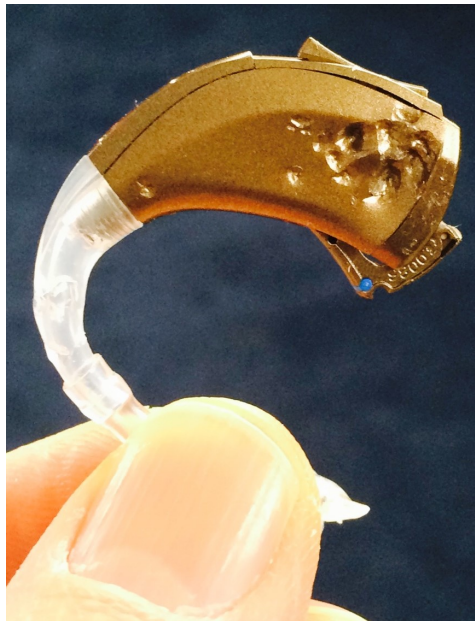
A severely hearing impaired person after removing an unwanted hearing aid

- Step #1 is to get a thorough evaluation of your hearing. This is not a screening test, not often a free test, and certainly not a test you take over the internet through your computer. Hearing test result accuracy is vital to how well you will hear with hearing aids. Just as important, you need a correct diagnosis. You may have the type of hearing impairment for which hearing aids are the only way to help, but you need professionally checked to be sure. Your ear should be checked for wax (cerumen), infection, tinnitus needs addressed, etc.
- Step #2 is to see someone who knows and fits hearing aids. The person you see in step #2 may be the same person you see for step #1, but it will not be your neighbor, family doctor, or someone who does not know hearing, hearing aids, and how to couple one to the other.

Some hearing aids can be programmed to automatically increase the gain (volume) over a period of time. This allows the audiologist to set the initial hearing aid gain a little low so that the new wearer is not over-whelmed, and can get used to hearing in a new way, and even get used to hearing sounds they may not have heard for a while. After a month or so, the gain automatically increases to a more optimal setting for best hearing.

- If you are unsure if hearing aids are for you, the most important consideration is your desire and need to hear better.
- Hearing aids can, and do, break.
- If possible, get your hearing aids locally, just as you would your dentures or glasses. Hearing aids obtained through the mail rarely work optimally for any given individual, and traveling 100 miles when you have a hearing aid problem or need service, is not ideal for many people.

- A person with one ear (one hearing aid) does not hear as well as someone with two ears (hearing aids for both ears). Monaural = one ear; binaural = two ears.
- Do not wear your hearing aids while using hair spray. It can clog up the microphone.
- The state of the science in fitting hearing aids is to verify that fitting with validated real-ear, probe-microphone measures, where a microphone is placed in your ear canal to measure the performance of the hearing aid at your eardrum and then compared back to the results of Step #1 (the hearing test results).
- If your family says you need them, you probably do.



This is a picture of a hearing aid that was bitten by a dog. Dogs must like hearing aids — one year we had 24 hearing aids chewed by dogs.