

The Hearing Well Newsletter

www.peggsheets.com

800-821-1477

Spring/Summer 2006

Open Ear Update

In the Spring/Summer 2005 issue of our Newsletter, I wrote about Open Ear Technologies just becoming available on the market. Initially, these technologies were geared toward individuals with mild to moderate mid to high frequency hearing loss. These tiny behind-the-ear (BTE) devices are coupled to an open-speaker that is designed to leave the ear canal open. The extreme "openness" of the speaker in the ear limited the fitting to only mild and moderate losses. For greater hearing loss, the speaker in the ear has to be less open and more occluding so the wearer benefits from the sound and less sound leaks out of the ear canal. The purpose of the earpiece on a BTE device is twofold: It holds the device on the ear, and couples to the device to deliver the sound into the ear. In more significant hearing loss, if the canal is too open, the amplified sound may leak out and the wearer will not benefit. Furthermore, if the amplified sound that leaks out gets into the microphone of the device and is amplified a second time, it can cause the speaker of the device to feedback (oscillate, whistle). Unfortunately, the more open the ear canal, the more likely feedback will occur. So, by designing a slightly more occluding speaker that couples to the mini BTE device, and creating better digital feedback cancellation, hearing aid manufacturers have expanded the fitting range of some of the Open Ear devices. In the 1990's, the hearing aid industry developed complete-in-the-canal (CIC) devices in an effort to attract people who needed hearing help but were avoiding getting help for cosmetic reasons. CIC devices resemble a peanut in its shell and are popular with some individuals to this day. However, the size of the CIC created problems with occlusion (full ear canal) and many people rejected the device because of the way their own voice sounded. Now that BTE devices are so small, people can have the best of both worlds: A small inconspicuous device and the comfort of a more open ear canal! If you think you might be interested in taking advantage of the many advances that have taken place in the hearing aid industry lately, please call and set up a time to come in and talk to me about your options.

Open Ear BTE



Bluetooth Anyone?

Bluetooth™ technology is beginning to impact devices for the hard-of-hearing. Bluetooth™ is a wireless way for devices to communicate. A Bluetooth™ device known as Eli^R allows a person to couple their hearing device with a Bluetooth™ compatible cell phone. A receiver attaches to the hearing device and the device functions normally until the cell phone rings. As soon as the phone rings, Eli^R activates and tunes the hearing aid to the cell phone so the conversation transmits directly through the hearing device. Another Bluetooth™ device, the HearPhone™ is two products in one. The HearPhone™ combines a mild gain hearing device and a Bluetooth™ headset. You can use it for hands-free, wireless telephone conversations (like other Bluetooth™ headsets), and when you aren't having a phone conversation, it acts as a mild amplifier to help boost conversational speech. The HearPhone™ won't be for everyone because it is only a mild gain amplifier. But, stay tuned, the options will continue to multiply as the years go by.

Summer Hours

May 31st thru
Sept. 1st

Nashua
Monday
thru
Friday
8:30AM
to 4:00PM

Manchester
Office Hours by
Appointment Only

A Special Thank You

Over the past few years, some of our patients have agreed to provide testimonials for our advertising. Our TV commercials run on such channels as NECN, CNN and HGTV, to name a few. The feedback has been so positive that we put the commercials on our web site, and have also used them in the newspaper! So a special thank you to our current and past patient celebrities! Check out Beryl, Robert and Tammy's commercials on our web site! -Bonnie

Patient Referral Program

At last year's patient appreciation day, we had a total of 85 people, and a wonderful time! We also officially kicked-off the Patient Referral Program. This program encourages you to refer your family and friends to our practice, and if one of your referrals purchases hearing aids, your name will be entered into a GRAND PRIZE drawing at this year's event. Please be sure you give a referral card to the person you are referring. If you need referral cards, just give me a call and I'll send them to you! -Bonnie