



Hearing Aid Placement *and* Care



All types of hearing aids are basically the same. A battery provides the power for the hearing aid to work. The battery is contained in a battery case in the plastic ear piece. The microphone picks up the sound. The amplifier makes the sound louder. The volume control adjusts the level of sound. The receiver is a tiny speaker that conveys sound to the ear. Some models have a “T” switch. This is a telephone switch that activates a telecoil. This is used when hearing over a telephone happens. The telephone however must be compatible with the telecoil.

Types of Hearing Aids

- **The canal aid – is the smallest type and fits deep into the ear canal.**
- **In the ear aid – is the most commonly used. This type fills the ear and is flush with the outer part of the ear.**
- **Behind the ear aid – consists of an aid worn behind the ear which is an earmold that directs sound into the ear canal.**
- **Eyeglass ear aid – similar to behind the ear aid except that the amplification device is contained in an eyeglass frame**
- **The body aid- enclosed in a case that can be carried in a pocket or attached to clothing. The hearing aid receiver attaches directly to an earmold inserted into the ear canal. The receiver is powered through a cord connected to the case of the body aid.**

Caring for Hearing Aids

- **Store hearing aids at room temperature when not worn. Temperature extremes can damage hearing aids. They should not be worn for more than a few minutes in very cold weather. Avoid exposing aids to hair dryers.**
- **Keep hearing aids dry. Never try to dry the aid with a hair dryer.**
- **Store extra batteries in a cool, dry place. Remove batteries from the hearing aid at night or open the battery compartment. This allows air to circulate in the compartment and helps dry it out. The battery will last longer with this practice.**
- **Keep hearing aids in a safe container/place. They break easily if dropped on a hard floor or bumped against a hard surface.**
- **Remove the hearing aid if hair spray is being used. The spray may clog the microphone, causing damage.**
- **Turn the hearing aid off when not in use. Turn the aid off before removing it.**
- **Wipe the in the ear hearing aids daily with a dry tissue.**
- **Check regularly to make sure the opening of the aid or earmold is wax free. In the ear types come with a cleaning tool. This should be**

used only by someone who has been shown how to use it to remove the wax.

Troubleshooting for Hearing Aids

- **Check to make sure that the “+” (positive) side of the battery is next to the “+” inside the hearing aid battery case or compartment.**
- **Try a new battery as the old one may be dead.**
- **Check the earmold to see if it is plugged with wax.**
- **Make sure the hearing aid is set on “M” (microphone) and not “T” (telephone switch).**

If the hearing aid is making squealing sounds:

- Determine if the earmold fits correctly. It should be completely in the ear if it is properly in place.
- Check the volume on the aid. If it is too high, turn it down until the squealing stops.
- Check the plastic tubing on a behind the ear aid. If it is cracked or split, it must be replaced.

When applying a behind the ear hearing aid, place the aid over the client's ear allowing the earmold to hang free and adjust the aid behind the client's ear. When applying an in the ear aid, grasp the earmold and gently insert the tapered end into the ear canal. Gently twist the earmold into the curve of the ear while gently pulling on the earlobe with the other hand. The hearing aid should fit snugly but comfortably flush with the ear. Turn on the control switch. To adjust the volume, talk to the client as you increase the volume. Stop when the client can hear you. When removing the hearing aid loosen the outer portion of the earmold by gently pulling on the upper part of the ear. Lift the earmold upward and outward and store in a safe place.