

**WHY DOES MY VOICE SOUND UNUSUAL
WHEN I WEAR MY HEARING AID(S)?**

YOUR VOICE MAY SOUND UNUSUAL FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, YOU ARE HEARING YOURSELF DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU HAVE FOR MANY YEARS WHILE YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED HEARING LOSS. THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF YOUR MOUTH TO YOUR EARS CONTRIBUTES TO THIS. SECONDLY, BY SIMPLY PLUGGING THE EARS, YOUR VOICE CHANGES. WITH HEARING AIDS, YOUR VOICE SOUNDS THE SAME TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, JUST DIFFERENT TO YOU. YOU WILL ACCLIMATE TO THIS NEWNESS AS YOU WEAR THE HEARING AIDS MORE. OPEN FIT HEARING AIDS MAKE THE CHANGE OF YOUR OWN VOICE DRAMATICALLY LESS NOTICEABLE.

WHY DO HEARING AIDS WHISTLE?

HEARING AIDS CAN WHISTLE FOR MANY REASONS: IF YOUR HEARING AID OR EARS HAVE AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF WAX, IF YOUR HEARING AID IS NOT INSERTED PROPERLY OR HAS A SLOPPY FIT TO IT, OR IF YOUR HEARING AID IS TURNED UP LOUDER THAN WHAT IT IS DESIGNED TO BE, IT CAN WHISTLE. IF YOUR HEARING AIDS WHISTLE, TALK TO DOUG TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO STOP IT.

**WHY IS THE WIND SO LOUD IN MY
HEARING AID(S)?**

WHEN A MICROPHONE IS PUT INTO A WINDY ENVIRONMENT IT WILL GENERALLY PICK UP THE WIND AND CAUSE THE WHOOSHING NOISE. HEARING AIDS NOW HAVE FEATURES ON THEM THAT CAN DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE ANNOYANCES OF WIND ON A HEARING AID.

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS ABOUT
HEARING AIDS**

GRAND HEARING CENTER

WHETHER THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT TO AN AUDIOLOGIST, OR YOU HAVE WORN HEARING AIDS FOR YEARS, CHANCES ARE YOU HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT HEARING AIDS. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF OUR MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION THAT IS NOT ADDRESSED HERE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK!

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I HAVE MY HEARING CHECKED?

ONCE YOU REACH THE AGE OF 60, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU HAVE YOUR HEARING CHECKED ONCE A YEAR. IF YOU NOTICE ANY CHANGES IN YOUR HEARING, IT SHOULD BE CHECKED SOONER. IF YOU HAVE A FEELING OF FULLNESS, PRESSURE, DRAINAGE, SUDDEN ONSET OF RINGING, PAIN, NUMBNESS OR COMPLETE LOSS OF HEARING, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN IMMEDIATELY. AT GRAND HEARING CENTER, WE TEST YOUR HEARING ANNUALLY ONCE YOU HAVE PURCHASED HEARING AIDS. THIS ALLOWS US TO MONITOR CHANGES SO WE CAN APPLY THEM TO YOUR HEARING AIDS.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BRING A COMPANION WITH ME TO MY APPOINTMENT?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU BECAUSE THEY MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE A MORE THOROUGH EXPLANATION OF YOUR AREAS OF DIFFICULTY. THEY MAY PROVIDE PERTINENT MEDICAL INFORMATION AND ALSO GIVE YOU AN UNBIAS OPINION OF YOUR HEARING NEEDS. A COMPANION MAY PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON HOW A PARTICULAR HEARING AID MAY LOOK IN YOUR EAR. ALSO IF THERE IS A FINANCIAL DECISION TO BE MADE IT MAY BE GOOD TO BRING THEM ALONG.

WHY DO MY EARS RING WITHOUT HEARING AIDS IN MY EARS?

RINGING IN THE EARS IS CALLED "TINNITUS". TINNITUS CAN TAKE ON MANY FORMS SUCH AS ROARING, BUZZING, RINGING OR EVEN CHIRPING. TINNITUS CAN BE A SIGN OF A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM. YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN OR AN AUDIOLOGIST AS SOON AS YOU NOTICE ANY RINGING.

DOES MY INSURANCE HAVE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS?

MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES DO HAVE COVERAGE FOR THE PURCHASE OF HEARING AIDS. OUR HEARING TESTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY AWARENESS ABOUT HEARING HEALTH CARE. WE CAN CALL YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY AND SEE WHAT COSTS, IF ANY, THEY WILL HELP WITH. THIS IS A COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE WE PROVIDE FOR OUR PATIENTS.

WHAT IS THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF A HEARING AID?

THE LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR MOST HEARING AIDS (IF CARED FOR PROPERLY AND WORN ALL DAY EVERYDAY) IS APPROXIMATELY FIVE TO SIX YEARS. WE HAVE EQUIPMENT THAT CAN ANALYZE YOUR CURRENT HEARING AIDS TO SEE IF THEY ARE ADEQUATELY MEETING YOUR NEEDS.

ARE THERE "RECHARGEABLE" HEARING AIDS?

YES, THEY DO MAKE HEARING AIDS THAT GO BEHIND YOUR EAR, ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE, AND HAVE A RECHARGEABLE BATTERY (BATTERY LIFE IS APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS). TALK TO DOUG TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE EXCITING NEW HEARING AIDS.

HOW LONG DOES A BATTERY LAST IN A HEARING AID?

THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT BATTERY SIZES AND THE LIFE OF A BATTERY IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SIZE OF IT. MOST BATTERIES WILL TYPICALLY LAST 1-2 WEEKS FOR A PERSON THAT USES THEIR HEARING AIDS ALL DAY EVERY DAY.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPROGRAM A HEARING AID?

REPROGRAMMING A HEARING AID MEANS THAT THE AUDIOLOGIST CAN MAKE CHANGES, WITH A COMPUTER, AS TO HOW THE HEARING AID AMPLIFIES SOUND. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE OR LESS VOLUME, CHANGES IN CLARITY OR IF YOUR HEARING LOSS CHANGES OVER TIME, CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO THE HEARING AID BY REPROGRAMMING IT. "DIGITAL" HEARING AIDS ARE THE MOST COMMON REPROGRAMMABLE HEARING AIDS.

WHY DO HEARING AIDS COST SO MUCH?

WHEN LOOKING AT THE COST OF A HEARING AID(S) IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU ARE GETTING. YOU ARE PAYING FOR A TINY COMPUTER CHIP (JUST LIKE WHAT IS IN A DESKTOP COMPUTER), AND YEARS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO CREATE NEW FEATURES. PATIENTS WHO PURCHASE A GRAND HEARING CENTER WARRANTY PACKAGE ALSO RECEIVE OFFICE CALLS, REPAIRS, AND BATTERIES FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. WE ALSO OFFER TRIAL PERIODS ON ALL OF OUR HEARING AIDS TO HELP YOU MAKE THE RIGHT SELECTION.

DOES THE PRICE OF THE HEARING AID DEPEND ON THE SIZE?

GENERALLY, NO, THE PRICE DOES NOT CHANGE BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE HEARING AID. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO SELECT YOUR HEARING AID BASED ON ITS FUNCTIONAL ABILITY NOW, AND FOR THE FUTURE, AND NOT BASED ON THE COSMETIC APPEAL. THE BIGGER A HEARING AID IS THE MORE VOLUME WE CAN GET OUT OF IT, THE SMALLER IT IS THE LESS WE CAN GET OUT OF IT.