

LifeTimes

News from your Hear For Life center ↪ Spring 1996

 Hear
For
Life®

Audiological
Hearing Care

ALDs: Hearing help for special situations

As useful as hearing aids can be, there are times when you might appreciate a little extra help with your hearing. Assistive listening devices (ALDs) are made for those special times. You can purchase ALDs at our Hear For Life center, and we'll show you how to use them.

ALDs can make hearing easier in a variety of situations, including when you're speaking on the telephone, attending the theater or your place of worship, conversing in a group, or watching television. Below is a sample of popular ALDs available through our practice. Call us if you'd like more information. *Note: selected ALDs are provided in some states to help hard-of-hearing individuals. Ask your audiologist whether there are such programs available in your state.*

AudioLink SET 100 infrared TV listening system

This wireless listening system consists of an infrared transmitter and an infrared receiver. The transmitter connects to the television, either through the audio output jacks or an optional microphone that can be purchased for televisions without



their own audio output jacks. An under-the-chin receiver delivers good sound quality and can also be coupled to hearing aid telecoils through an optional neckloop system. The system is powered by special rechargeable batteries and the transmitter serves as the charger. This system is compatible with over 3,000 public facilities using infrared technology.

Walker Clarity telephone

This popular telephone has a built-in equalizer to tune and balance sound for greater clarity while boosting volume. Designed for moderate to severe high frequency hearing loss, the Walker Clarity telephone replaces the user's entire telephone. Features include: lighted dial pad for easier reading, flashing light when telephone is ringing, ten-number memory, and tone or pulse dialing.



Pocketalker Pro II system

The Pocketalker Pro picks up sound from television speakers with a small microphone and delivers it directly to the ear. This system can also be used in difficult listening situations such as a

car, restaurant, or small group. The basic system consists of the amplifier, the plug-mount microphone, a nine-foot TV listening cord, a mini-ear bud, and a carrying case. Also available are an optional headset for binaural listening and a neckloop to couple to hearing aid telecoils. Works well with moderate losses.



Sonic Alert bed shaker

This cylindrical-shaped bed shaker plugs into the back of a clock. It goes beneath

ALDs... continued back page

The Hear For Life guarantee: a statement of commitment

At Hear For Life, we take great pride in the quality of our hearing care. Our care includes a commitment to the complete satisfaction of each of our patients. Our unique Hear For Life patient satisfaction guarantee backs that commitment.

Here's what it says:

"If you complete the hearing rehabilitation program we recommend for you and you do not believe we have fulfilled the expectations set forth in the program, we will refund your

money for hearing instruments within one year of purchase."

The big difference between this guarantee and others is the time it covers—a full year. The law only mandates a 30-day grace period for returning hearing aids. We don't believe that's enough time for people to ease into the use of hearing aids and really learn to use them properly.

After all, using hearing aids is a new experience. Studies have shown it can take several weeks to several months for the brain to adjust to receiving amplified

Q & A

"Why does my hearing aid whistle when I speak on the telephone?"

Any time you hold an object close to a hearing aid, the sounds amplified by the hearing aid can reflect back into the hearing aid microphone. When this happens, feedback or whistling occurs.

There are many ways to solve the problem. The simplest is to hold the telephone receiver farther from your hearing aid. Another solution is to use a hearing aid that contains a telecoil, a coil of wire that picks up electromagnetic energy from the telephone and uses that, rather than a microphone, to amplify sound. If you use the telephone often, you may wish to use an assistive listening device (ALD), such as the ones presented in this newsletter.

sounds. Before this adjustment occurs, the sounds one hears through hearing aids—even hearing aids that have been well-chosen and well-fit—may seem a bit strange. That's natural. By using the

The guarantee... continued back page

Spring news from
Your Hear For Life center

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A spring touch—for a difference you can hear

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cords running across the room!
hearing aids. No
with or without
systems for use either
wireless TV listening
several wired and
amplifying devices. There are



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Hearing conservation: saving your natural resources

The word "conservation" is often applied to saving natural resources such as forests or rivers. But there's another natural resource that's well worth saving: your ability to hear.



John Miles
Audiologist

Janet Snyder
Audiologist

average sound intensity near an airport is much greater than this.

Noise-induced hearing loss happens gradually. People usually lose high-pitched sounds first: rustling leaves, singing birds, a child's whisper. This can make understanding speech difficult, because many of the subtle sounds that distinguish similar sounding words from another are high-frequency sounds.

These days our hearing is under constant assault, from loud music, lawn mowers, power tools, motor boats, and other by-products of our noisy age. Studies have shown that prolonged exposure to noise levels as low as 80 decibels can cause hearing loss. The

Fortunately, you can protect your hearing with a small investment in hearing protection. A wide variety of effective products are available, ranging from inexpensive foam plugs to more expensive electronic devices that only block out loud sounds. Sports fans

(especially those attending auto races), gun shooters, power equipment users, or people who use high powered engines should be especially careful about preserving their hearing.

There's no reason to let noise rob you of your hearing! You can easily join the conversation movement—to protect your own natural ability to hear. Let us know how we can help you!

Sincerely,

John C. Miles, M.S.

Certified Clinical Audiologist

Janet K. Snyder, M.A.

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Certified Clinical Audiologist

The guarantee ... continued from front page

hearing aids often, a new wearer will become fully accustomed to them in a short while. Our year-long guarantee takes the pressure off and lets new wearers adjust to their hearing aids at their own pace.

Our guarantee also expresses our confidence that good hearing care and counseling—before, during and after the fitting—makes for satisfied patients. All our hearing tests and hearing aid fittings are conducted by university-educated audiologists—people who specialize in hearing care, as well as fit hearing aids.

We recognize that dissatisfaction with hearing aids usually results from

a misunderstanding—either on the part of the professional, who didn't adequately understand a patient's real needs, or on the part of the patient, who has not received enough good counseling. Thorough counseling and follow-through are important parts of our commitment to each of our patients.

Hear
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Patient
Commitment

This experience will include:
• Multiple fittings with advanced hearing
• Source of hearing disorders
• Results and recommendations
• Insurance coverage, if applicable

100% satisfaction
guaranteed

ALDs ... continued from front page

the mattress and will vibrate the entire bed when the alarm goes off. It has a built-in sensor to prevent overheating if left on.



Portable alarm clock

A compact portable vibrating alarm, perfect for travel. Vibrates for one minute. Operates on two AA batteries. Carrying case optional.



Let us know if you'd like more information on any of these ALDs. Additional amplification really can make a big difference for those who have trouble hearing in special situations!