

Hearing Aid Services of Hollywood

*preferred patient
newsletter*
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Jeff's Corner



Just type the phrase "hearing loss" or "hearing problem" into any Internet search engine and you'll be confronted with no fewer than 20 million possible links. It's quite a challenge to narrow down the choices if you want to locate the most reliable and accurate information on the topic.

One resource I know you can count on is the website for the Hearing Loss Association of America or HLAA (www.hearingloss.org). HLAA is a non-profit organization that provides assistance and resources for people with hearing loss and their families. Their mission is to raise public awareness about the need to prevent and treat the problem and to advocate for public policy that helps those with hearing loss overcome barriers to communication in the home, workplace and community.

I like this website because it provides practical information to help you adjust to situations you encounter in daily life. For example, their employment toolkit describes application and interview strategies for those with hearing loss, lists tips you can share with co-workers on how to communicate with a person who has a hearing loss, and discusses your rights under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Another feature is a very comprehensive section that covers the many ways technology can assist those with hearing loss. The benefits of assistive devices (such as audio loops, FM and infrared systems), captioning services, and specialized telephones are discussed from an unbiased, objective perspective.

Continued on page 2

Do you want to hear better in noisy situations and on the telephone?



Presenting the new Widex CLEAR FUSION

Widex recently introduced the FUSION, the latest model in the CLEAR family of hearing instruments. CLEAR hearing aids communicate wirelessly with each other to mimic the connectivity of two normal hearing ears. By doing this, sound quality is enhanced and *auditory depth perception* is improved so you can hear more clearly than ever before.

CLEAR technology is designed to meet the challenge of hearing from different directions through an innovative technology called *FreeFocus*. This feature enables you to focus on sound in selected directions without turning your head... ideal if you're driving or trying to hear someone who is standing behind you.

FUSION analyzes the listening environment in all directions to localize and enhance speech, making it easier to understand conversation in background noise. Imagine you are having lunch with friends

Continued on page 2

Jeff's Corner: Continued from page 1

HAAA is organized into a number of state associations and individual local chapters that meet on a regular basis to offer emotional support, camaraderie, and tips and techniques for living with hearing loss. In the Southland, chapters are active in Los Angeles, Long Beach, the San Fernando Valley, and Orange and Ventura Counties. Contact information for each chapter is listed on the site if you are interested in becoming a member. The association also sponsors webinars (on-line video presentations) on various topics, and message boards and blogs where you are invited to offer your opinion, ask a question or make new friends.



The HAAA website is a first-rate resource on the topic of hearing loss for everyone affected by this problem. Individuals who suspect a hearing loss or have recently been diagnosed will certainly benefit, but those of you who have spent many years coping with the problem are sure to find a great deal of useful information, as well. I encourage you to check it out!

Jeff

Do You Want to Hear Better?: Continued from page 1

at a lively, loud restaurant. You are facing the individual on your right. The woman on your left begins speaking and you understand her even though your back is turned!

Telephone conversations: FUSION also features a system called *Phone+*, a wireless technology that processes and transmits phone signals from one hearing aid to the other. This enables you to hold a phone up to one ear and listen to the phone conversation in both ears simultaneously without the need of additional devices. The result is improved hearing clarity with less listening effort.

Home entertainment: FUSION implements WidexLink technology in the *TV-DEX*, a wireless system used to transmit sound from external devices to your hearing aids. When you are listening to TV, music systems, computers or MP3 players, the *TV-DEX* provides direct streaming into your hearing instruments, enhancing the sound quality for a more natural sound experience.

Come Take a Test Drive!

FUSION's versatile design is suitable for nearly all types of hearing loss. Just give us a call to schedule an appointment to determine whether FUSION is the *best* choice for you.

What Can You Do When Your Hearing Aid Stops Functioning?

Hearing aids follow Murphy's Rules of Reasoning. That is, when something is going to go wrong, it will happen at the most inopportune time. However, there are some simple things you can do when your hearing aid doesn't seem to work properly.

The most common reason a hearing aid will not work is that it's plugged with earwax or other debris. A plug of wax will prevent the sound from escaping from the speaker port of an in-the-ear aid or the earmold of a behind-the-ear aid, and you'll think the aid is dead. However, you can remove the wax plug with the brush or wax loop that came with your hearing aids. If you don't have cleaning tools, you can use the pointed end of a straight pin to gently dig the wax out.

For those of you who have in-the-ear hearing aids that have wax guard filters installed, the cleaning process is slightly different. The filters are the tiny white plugs that fit into the end of the hearing aid that you insert into your ear canal. Replacement filters are in a 2-inch by 3-inch white or gray packet. When you snap open

the top of the packet, you'll find some black sticks.

Remove one of the sticks and you'll notice a small white piece on the tip. This is the replacement filter. Take out the old filter with the flattened end of the black stick by pushing it into the old filter and pulling it straight out of the aid. Then, flip over the stick and gently slide the replacement filter into the spot the plugged filter occupied. Usually, this is all that it takes to get your instrument functioning again.

For behind-the-ear users, the problem is often a moisture plug inside of the tubing where the tube inserts into the earmold. You can break the moisture bubble by holding the upper portion of the aid firmly where the earmold tubing attaches to your instrument. Shake it two or three times, as if you were shaking down an old-fashioned thermometer. This force will usually break the moisture bubble and you'll be back in business.

Of course, if these remedies don't work, please call the office. We're always ready to help.