

Hearing Aid Services

of Hollywood

maximizing your hearing potential
with today's technology

Preferred Patient Newsletter
Issue 51 — Winter 2020

7080 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 814
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Phone: (323) 463-7109 • Fax: (323) 463-7707

Website: lahearing.com



Jeff's Corner

Rechargeable Battery Update

In a 2018 newsletter, I discussed the limitations of hearing aids that use rechargeable batteries. The problem was related to the physical design of the hearing aid case, which caused an inconsistent coupling to the battery door. As a result, the hearing aids failed to charge.

Fast forwarding to today, I am pleased to report that all manufacturers have overcome this problem. Hearing aids now use magnetic induction — the same technology in cell phones. The advantage is that the devices do not require plugging into a jack. Rather, wearers place their instruments in a large slot, and a magnetic field recharges them for a full day of use in a few hours. The recharging unit's design makes it virtually impossible to insert the hearing aids incorrectly.

The recharging station automatically turns off your hearing aids when they are inserted. A red light appears during charging, and when completed, changes to green. Users can recharge the batteries for about five years with no degradation in performance.

I have fitted dozens of patients with the new rechargeable products and am glad to report zero problems. So, if you have trouble handling batteries or find changing them a nuisance, you might want to consider stepping up to new rechargeable hearing instruments. Not only will you be rid of this weekly chore, but you'll have the advantage of the new technology upgrades.

Jeff

Today's Hearing Aids Are Smarter and Faster

The hearing aid world is everchanging, with new ideas put into practical use almost monthly. The latest circuitry, enabling more precise recognition of speech and reduction of background noise, was introduced by Oticon in the spring of 2019.



These microchips have increased the processing speeds to an astounding 100 samplings per second. By having a higher sampling rate, hearing aids can

better separate speech signals from noise. Studies document a 20% improvement in understanding speech in background noise as compared with units from the previous Oticon generation.

The new technology creates a true multi-dimensional acoustical picture of the entire soundscape. Speech close to the listener sounds like speech close to the listener and distant speech sounds distant. In short, everything you hear gives you an authentic perception of loudness and distance. This is how your brain processed sound before you had a hearing impairment. The new technology compensates for the loss of your ability to discern these essential acoustic features. Here is an example of just how well this technology works.

My client, Steven L., was fitted with Oticon Opn 1 hearing devices in 2016. He loved the Opn 1 products and was impressed with the clarity and understanding of speech in noisy restaurants when he compared them to his old hearing aids. Still, understanding speech in *extremely* noisy restaurants remained a challenge, so he opted to try the new Oticon Opn S1 products.

Continued on page 2

Today's Hearing Aids Are Smarter and Faster (Continued from page 1)

I fitted Steven on a Friday afternoon and his initial reaction was that the fidelity of the Opn S1 was outstanding — markedly better than his older Opn 1 units. He told me he was going to put the hearing aids to the acid test that evening, as he was attending a huge party in a restaurant known to be very loud. In the past, he had attended similar parties in the same venue and had a difficult time understanding anything that was said. We scheduled an appointment for the following Monday, so I could get his impression of the new product.

On Monday morning, Steven was all smiles when he

entered my office. He stated that the noise level of the party's live music in a crowd of 150 people was abysmally loud and that nobody was able to follow conversation... except him. Everyone who was aware of his hearing difficulties was astounded that he was filling in the details that they were unable to hear. He handed me his credit card and stated, "Sold!"

Dozens of other clients who I have fitted with the Oticon Opn S1 report that they themselves and their families and friends are amazed at the difference they have witnessed. If you would like to give the new Opn S1 a try, give us a call to schedule an appointment.

Untreated Hearing Loss Can Have Physical and Emotional Consequences



The impact of hearing loss extends beyond communication problems. People with untreated hearing loss have a lower quality of life that may affect their emotional, social and even their physical well-being.

For those without hearing aids, keeping up with conversations and overcoming the anxiety of being in social settings may result in stress-related psychological symptoms. These include embarrassment, depression, frustration, anxiety, insecurity and low self-esteem. Untreated hearing loss can also make a person irritable and less tolerant of others.

Common social problems for people with untreated hearing loss include withdrawal from social contact, inattentiveness and lack of concentration. They often pretend to understand in order to mask their

disability. A survey showed that 71% of hard-of-hearing people felt isolated because of their hearing loss, 40% avoided meeting new people, and 91% had difficulties coping in public places.

Often, people suffering from untreated hearing loss exhibit physical problems that include exhaustion, headache and vertigo. Eating and sleep disorders, stomach problems and high blood pressure are also associated with this condition. Surveys by the National Council on Aging indicate that physical symptoms lessen or disappear completely when hearing-impaired individuals are treated with properly-fitted hearing aids.

It is important to be aware of these potential signs in order to recognize them in our friends and loved ones. A person afflicted with a hearing loss may be unaware of his difficulty, making it necessary for others to intervene to help him.

An individual who seeks help at the first signs of hearing loss will reap the maximum rewards possible from amplification. Although hearing aids do not cure hearing loss, those who are fitted appropriately enjoy better physical and mental health for a more fulfilling quality of life.