



August 18th, 2012

How's Your Hearing?

Eh? What's that you said? If it feels like you're saying that a lot these days, maybe you're developing hearing problems. Other signs include constantly turning up the volume, avoiding or feeling confused in social situations or having people complain that you aren't listening to them (when, really, you are trying!). If this "sounds" like you, time to book an appointment with your doctor for a hearing test.

Hearing aids have come a long way in recent years – some so small that they can be hard to detect when being worn. However, size isn't the only consideration when choosing a hearing aid. Some of the small ones aren't as effective for severe hearing loss, excessive wax production or separating background noise. Also consider your manual dexterity for operating the device and look for new features, such as wifi.

So why bother getting a hearing aid? Recent medical evidence shows that they can improve quality of life and develop better relationships. The right hearing aid can also offer a greater depth of listening – improving your ability to detect and enjoy sounds you currently miss.

The latest hearing-aids have undergone significant technology improvements – specifically, the development of smaller open-fit digital hearing aids. For noisy settings, the latest developments are a welcome change to the over the ear solutions.

Here are some other features to consider:

- Feedback suppression helps reduce squeals when your hearing aid is close to the phone or has a loose-fitting ear mold.
- Digital noise reduction can reduce irritating background sounds such as the clinking of dishes.
- Power-on delay helps stop feedback as you put in your hearing aid.
- Wax guard helps prevent ear wax malfunctions for your hearing aid.
- Automatic volume control (compression) offers greater amplification for low sound levels than high sound levels, which averts high sound levels from being intrusively loud.

Regardless of your choice, your pharmacist can listen to your requirements. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance, we're here for you.