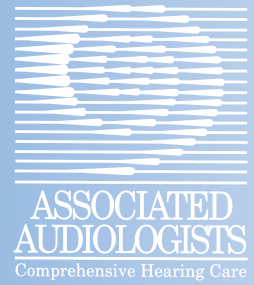


HEARING

YOUR BEST



Information From Associated Audiologists, Inc. – “Hearing Your Best for Life”

Winter 2006

SAVIA HEARING AID OFFERS MORE NATURAL SOUND



▲ The Savia from Phonak offers comprehensive selections for specific hearing losses, including optional remote control devices in the form of a keychain or watch.

Our mission is to continually educate our patients regarding the most-up-to-date technological advancements in hearing aids. The latest in the revolution of digital hearing instruments is the Savia from Phonak. The Savia features a tiny microcomputer that closely copies the biological process of hearing, leading to a more natural sound quality.

“The Savia addresses a host of extremely critical issues for anyone who wears a hearing aid,” says James A. Wise, Ph.D., C.C.C.-A., President of Associated Audiologists, Inc. Specifically, these issues include:

- Stress-free hearing in a number of listening environments
- Speech understanding in the presence of multiple noise sources
- Natural localization of sound ability
- Significant reduction of feedback (whistling)

Phonak incorporated several programs in the tiny microcomputer inside the Savia. “By integrating all of these computer programs into one hearing aid, Phonak has made it possible for the hearing aid wearer to experience more ‘natural’ sound,” Dr. Wise explains.

The Savia offers comprehensive selections for specific hearing losses as well as individual preferences. The Savia family has six different in-the-ear models, including a tiny completely-in-the-canal device with a convenient remote control. There are also three behind-the-ear versions featuring full directional and FM compatibility for state-of-the-art communication.

To learn more about this exciting development in digital hearing aid technology or to schedule an appointment for a complimentary consultation and demonstration, call any of our three locations today.

HOW LONG DO HEARING AIDS LAST?



All hearing aids require some level of repair during their lifetime. The most frequent repairs are caused by dirt and debris blocking the microphones and the receivers. Your audiologist will review with you how to maintain your hearing aids, how to keep

them clean and dry, how to change the batteries, etc. Nonetheless, even if your hearing aids are well maintained they typically have a lifespan of four to six years.

Hearing aids are most commonly replaced when your hearing decreases beyond the capability of your current hearing aid; when new and better hearing aid technology is available; or when repairs/maintenance become more costly due to the age of the hearing aid.

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MANAGING EARWAX IMPORTANT TO HEARING AID FUNCTION

Cerumen, or earwax, is a naturally occurring substance in our ears.

Glands that lie under the skin of the ear canal secrete cerumen into the ear canal. Cerumen is present as a protection for the soft, vulnerable skin that lines our ear canal.

It helps to protect the ear canal by trapping dirt and slowing the growth of bacteria.



In most people, a small amount of cerumen regularly makes its way to the opening of the ear canal, where it is washed away or falls out as new wax is secreted. If a person secretes an excessive amount of wax, or if the wax becomes lodged in the ear canal, the wax may block sounds from entering the ear.

Most people do not need to have special care in managing cerumen, but there are about 150,000 patients who undergo special care to have earwax removed every week. If cerumen is not removed correctly, complications might include pain, a perforated tympanum, dizziness, bleeding, and infection.

The key to cerumen management is prevention of wax buildup and, when needed, appropriate care.

When cerumen begins to build in the ear canal, there are a few management recommendations. One is to use a softening agent to make the wax expel more easily. Unfortunately, softening agents may

only loosen the outer layers of the wax and still leave more impacted cerumen in the ear canal.

If routine hygiene does not effectively manage cerumen, earwax removal kits are available in many pharmacies for further help. Earwax removal kits are normally inexpensive; however, the effectiveness of these kits depends upon how hard or soft the cerumen is when irrigated with solution.

If cerumen remains in the ear canal after following the directions provided by an earwax removal kit, it is highly recommended that a patient consult an audiologist or physician.

A person should never attempt to dig out earwax with cotton swabs or other items. Digging into the ear canal simply pushes the wax further into the ear canal and helps to compact the wax, which can make it more difficult to remove.

Digging also frequently does serious damage to the lining of the ear canal, and even to the eardrum.

For people who need a practitioner's help to manage earwax, a metal ear syringe and DeVilbiss ear irrigator are frequently used to remove cerumen. If earwax buildup is a recurring problem, a professional may recommend that a patient use a wax removal medication, such as carbamide peroxide (Debrox or Murine Ear Drops).

Hearing Your Best is published regularly by Associated Audiologists, Inc. All materials are created by our audiologists solely for the education of our patients and referring physicians. Any reproduction must be approved in writing by our editor. If you have comments or suggestions, please direct them to:

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