

Hearing Aids & Cell Phones

plus More of Your Questions
Answered

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TEJAS

Ear, Nose and Throat, P.A.

The Office of
Dr. Oscar A. Tamez



Tejas Hearing Aid Center™



7201 Wyoming Springs Dr.
Round Rock, TX 78681



Latest and Greatest Hearing Aids Technology

- Smaller
- More comfortable
- Less visible
- Bluetooth compatible
- Faster processing
- Better noise reduction
- \$1,000-\$3,500 each



Latest and Greatest Technology

NEW

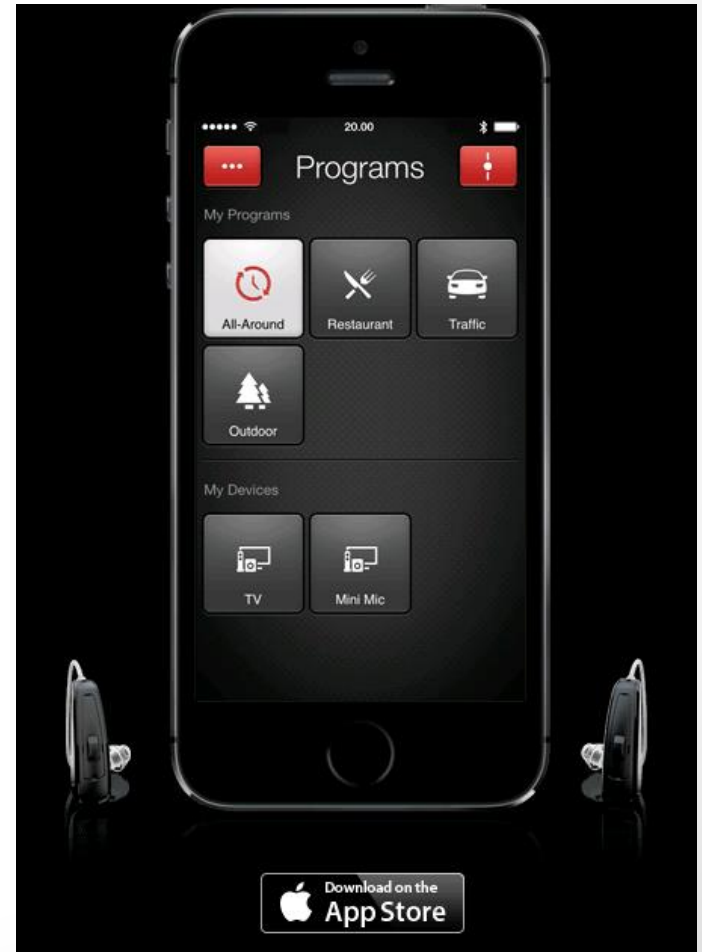


Every
experience
enhanced

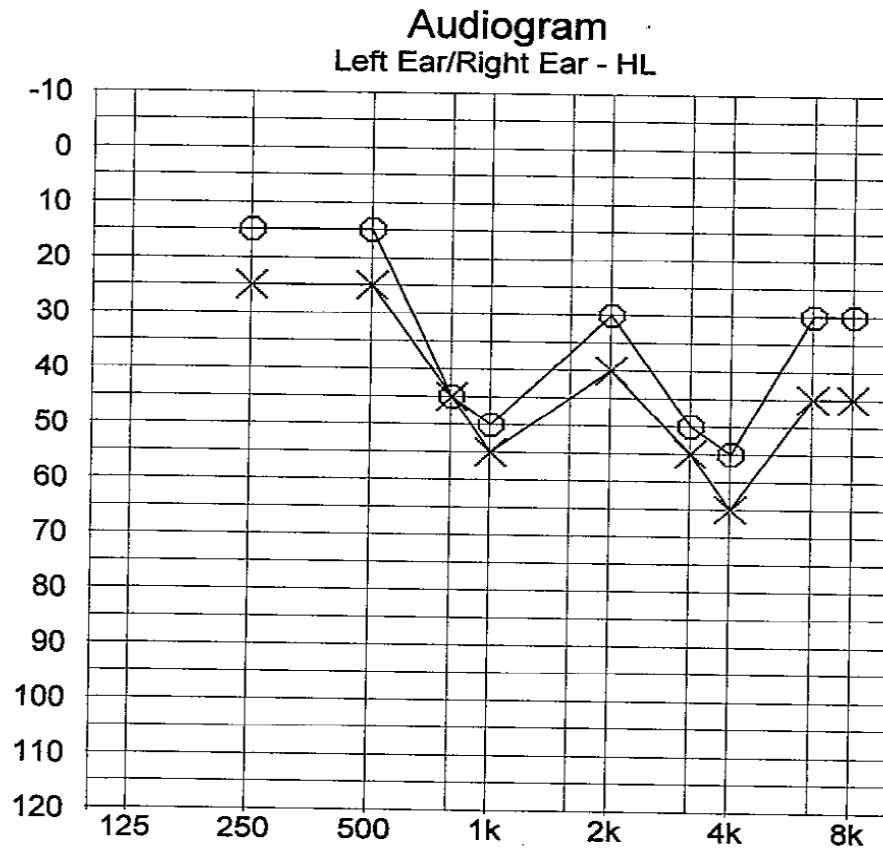
That's The
Halo Effect



Made for
iPod iPhone iPad



A Patient's Perspective





HIGH DEFINITION HEARING



PHONAK



Answers To Your Questions

- How to pick ENT and Audiologist
- Device types
- How to shop for aids
- Latest and greatest technology
- Why aids don't work
- Self improvement
- Causes of hearing loss
- Ear plugs
- Ear wax
- Medicines
- Time to get aids
- What to expect from aids
- Sound quality

What are the causes of hearing loss?

- Presbycusis – Age Related
 - Result of aging process or extended exposure to environmental noise factors throughout a lifetime
 - Permanent change in inner ear
- Sociocusis – Noise Induced
 - Results from exposure to harmful levels of noise
 - Damage to hair cells and cochlea
 - Gradual onset and painless
- Congenital – Genetic
 - Results from a family history of hearing loss or predisposition
- Ototoxicity – Drug Related
 - Results from the use of certain medications
 - Mycin Drugs
 - Aspirin
 - Cancer Treatment Drugs

In most cases there is not a single cause for hearing loss, but it results from a combination of factors.

What are the types of hearing loss and Can it be cured?

Conductive hearing loss

- **Sound is blocked in the outer or middle ear**

- **Causes:**

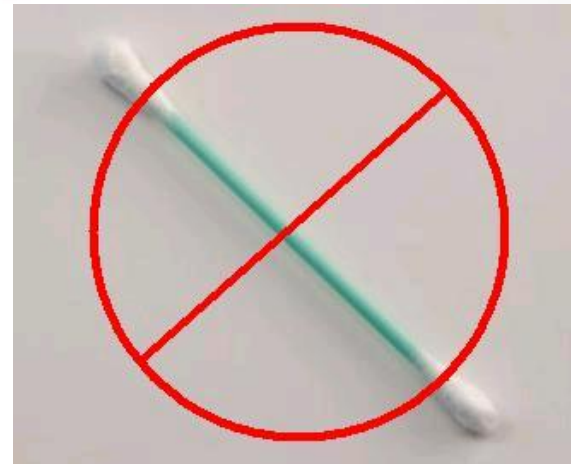
- Excessive earwax
- Damaged eardrum
- Ear infection or fluid in the middle ear
- Stiffness in the bones of the middle ear (otosclerosis)

- **Solution:**

- Most often medically treated with high success
- Very successful with hearing aids if unable to treat medically



Can ear wax cause hearing loss? How should it be cleaned?



What are the types of hearing loss and Can it be cured?

Sensorineural hearing loss

- Inner ear hair cells or hearing nerve is damaged and cannot send complete signals to the brain

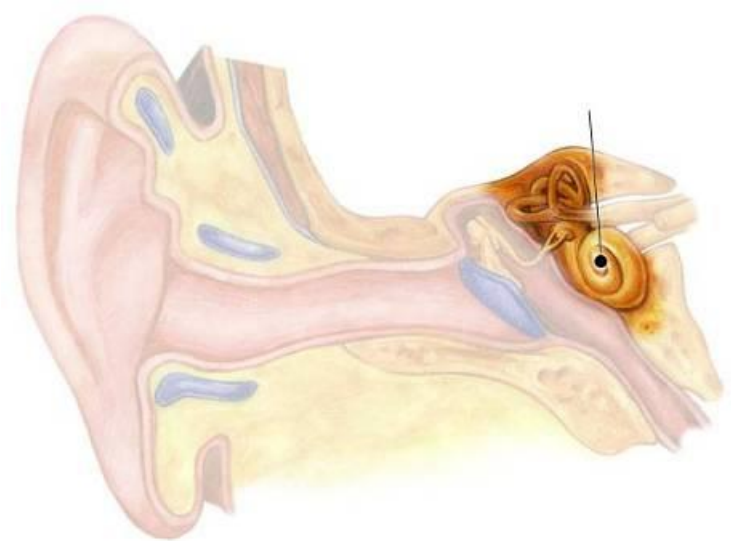
- Causes:

- Aging
- Noise exposure
- Hereditary factors

- Solutions:

- Cannot be corrected with medicine or surgery
- Hearing aids can be very helpful

Inner Ear



How can you prevent hearing loss?

- What ear plugs are best for swimming, snoring, loud music, etc?



How do you find an ENT?

- Referral from Primary Care Doctor
- Insurance
- Online Reviews
- Specific issues such as breathing, hearing, voice, etc.



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How do I find an Audiologist?

What questions do I ask?

Audiologist?

- Ask your friends and family!
- ENT referral
- Online reviews
- Manufacturer recommendations

Questions?

- What brands of products are offered?
- What is included in the cost of hearing aids?
- What follow up services are offered?
- What demo programs or trial periods are offered?



What is the difference between an Audiologist and Hearing Aid Dispenser?

Audiologist

- Master's or Doctoral degree from accredited university
- Specially trained in the prevention, identification, assessment and non-medical treatment of hearing disorders.
- Successful completion of a full-time internship
- Certified and licensed by the State of Texas
- Tuition for 8 years of college (\$\$\$\$)

Dispenser

- High school diploma
- Completion of 160 hours supervised training
- Successful completion of a written examination
- Successful completion of a practical examination
- One (1) year of supervision
- Licensed by the State of Texas
- Application Fees (\$205-\$417)

What should I expect if I've just been told I need hearing aids?

- Demonstration of latest technology
- List of options including style and technology
- Pricing for each
- Realistic expectations based on your hearing test results



How do I know when it's time to get hearing aids?

- Can hear but do not understand.
- Have difficulty hearing in restaurants and/or places of worship.
- Frequently ask people to repeat.
- Look at people's faces to assist in understanding speech.
- Turn up the volume of the TV and/or radio.
- Feel that everyone mumbles or doesn't speak clearly.

When should I buy hearing aids? Sooner or later?

Benefits of early hearing loss treatment



1. Earning power
2. Communication in relationships
3. Intimacy and warmth in family relationships
4. Ease in communication
5. Emotional stability
6. Sense of control over life events
7. Perception of mental functioning
8. Physical health

Device Types: Style



Device Types: How to shop for the right one

- Higher price mean the best? Yes
- Expectations of \$1000 aid? Amplifier

100% DIGITAL WIRELESS HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY



Model	Performance Level	Widex Logo
DREAM™440	Ultimate Performance	WIDEX
DREAM™330	Exceptional Performance	WIDEX
DREAM™220	Excellent Performance	WIDEX
DREAM™110	Very Good Performance	WIDEX

Wireless DEX™ Devices

Device Types: Comparison & Cost

- No difference in cost between major manufacturers (at the same facility)
- Demo different aids to find best fit

The Phonak logo features the word "PHONAK" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A small green circle is positioned between the "O" and "N", partially overlapping the "O".The Oticon logo consists of the word "oticon" in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a small red diamond above the "i". Below it, the words "PEOPLE FIRST" are written in a smaller, black, uppercase, sans-serif font.The Siemens logo is the word "SIEMENS" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font.The Widex logo features the word "WIDEX" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right. Below it, the words "HIGH DEFINITION HEARING" are written in a smaller, black, uppercase, sans-serif font.The Starkey logo features a yellow five-pointed star with a blue outline. To the right of the star, the word "Starkey" is written in a blue, serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right.The ReSound logo features the word "ReSound" in a black, sans-serif font. Below it, there is a red horizontal line with a series of small red squares to its left. Underneath the line, the words "rediscover hearing" are written in a smaller, black, lowercase, sans-serif font.

What to expect from hearing aids

- Enhanced hearing of soft sounds
- Enhanced hearing in noisy situations
- New technologies that increase patient comfort
- Freedom from annoying whistling
- Wireless accessories
- Durability & protection from moisture, sweat, ear wax and debris

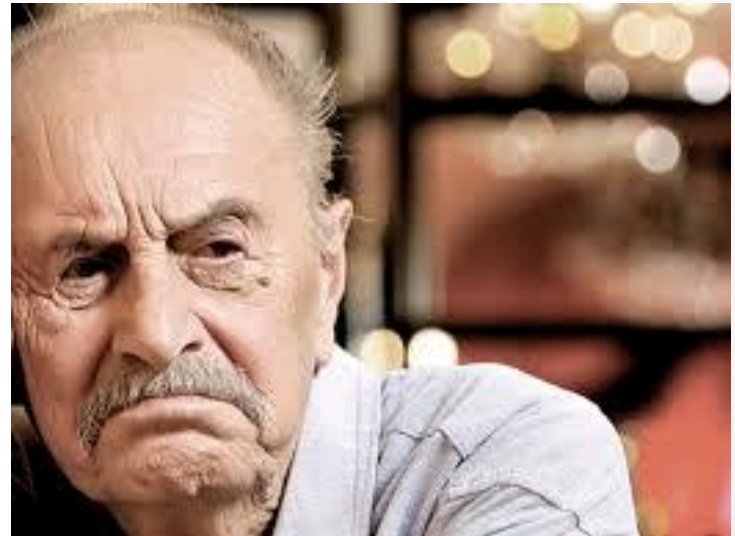


Sound quality from radio, TV, Movies, DVD

- Why is a movie harder to understand?
 - Speakers of system
 - Background noise in movie and environment
 - Distance from TV
 - Different TV channels sound different
 - Frequencies in hearing aids

Why don't my hearing aids help?

- Hearing loss/speech discrimination score
- Verification of fit
 - Real-Ear testing
 - Aided hearing test
- Level of technology
- Follow-up routine



Self Improvement

- Improve listening skills?
 - Reading out loud to yourself
 - LACE program
- How to learn to read lips?
 - Lipreading.org
 - Department of Rehabilitation Services (DARS)
- Educate myself on hearing loss?
 - Hearing Loss Association of America- www.hearingloss.org

Can I sleep in my hearing aids?

- Yes
 - Battery life will decrease
 - Not comfortable
 - Wear and tear will increase

Questions?