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HEAR & NOW

Patriot Center for Hearing Loss Newsletter

Better hearing. Doesn't that sound good?

What's New With Hearing Aids?

Hearing aids today are...well, they are downright cute! Going beyond looks though, hearing aids are designed to be more comfortable and natural sounding than ever before. We haven't got to the point where hearing can be restored to normal and I am sure hearing aids cannot yet sound as good as the intact human ear but they are pretty impressive. Oticon's newest hearing aid, Epoq (pronounced e-pock), was recently selected as an International Consumer Electronics Show Best of Innovations 2008 Design and Engineering Award honoree. Its advanced technology earned one of the highest scores in the healthcare category from an international panel of independent industry designers, engineers and members of the trade press. But Oticon isn't alone in coming up with innovative ideas to help the hearing impaired. Most manufacturers now have open-fit hearing aids to help people with high frequency hearing loss, many have specifically engineered power hearing aids for those with more severe

concerns, such as problems with feedback or hearing better in noisy environments. The latest style of hearing aid is a combination of in-the-ear and behind-the-ear. It allows you to get the best of both worlds to help you hear well and look good all at the same time! There is certainly nothing shameful about hearing aids but the fact of the matter is, people are more likely to wear them if they are not embarrassed about the way they look. The hearing aid industry knows this and has worked hard to give you the best sound quality in a cosmetically appealing style. The behind-the-ear styles are becoming more and more popular as people begin to realize their comfort and surprisingly discreet look...slyly hiding behind the ear, out of sight, blending in with your skin tone, hair color or eyeglass frame. We can match the color to be discreet or we can have some fun and go with vibrant colors or even animal prints! If you haven't tried hearing aids lately, give us a call

You Can Be Someone's Hear-O

Wondering what to do with those old hearing aids that are no longer of any use to you? Maybe you have several sets that you have collected over the years but are reluctant to throw out something that was once a much needed and valuable asset. Here's a thought. By donating your old hearing aids, regardless of age or condition, you can actually help someone else hear better. The Starkey Hearing Foundation, a not-for-profit organization helping hearing impaired people throughout the world, collects hearing aids for recycling purposes. They use the parts to provide hearing aids to those in need. All donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions. Stop by the office for a form to send in with your hearing aids as well as more information regarding tax deductions for donated hearing aids. Come on, be a hear-o!

FDA Warns of Possible Sudden Hearing Loss from Certain Medications

The FDA has approved labeling changes for erectile dysfunction drugs in the class that includes Cialis, Levitra and Viagra to display more prominently the potential risk of sudden hearing loss. They plan to require the same changes in labeling for the drug Revatio, used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension. Other medications come with the risk of hearing loss as well but are not always well labeled. For example, many common antibiotics carry a risk of sudden, permanent hearing loss. If you already have hearing loss, you are at an even greater risk. Speak with your healthcare provider and/or pharmacist and be sure you are well informed about any of your medications and be sure they are well informed about your existing hearing loss and increased risk so they can make the best decision regarding your medication choices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I will be out of the office for a few days in February while attending a conference to obtain important continuing education required by my state licensing board as well as my national credentialing board. I am leaving on the 6th and should be back in the office on the 12th. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. Denise will still be here to take calls, schedule appointments, dispense batteries, etc. Taking care of you is very important to us so if an emergency comes up and you cannot wait, give Denise a call and she'll do her absolute best to get another audiologist to come in and help. We really appreciate the trust you have placed in us and are dedicated to providing you with continued quality care, compassion and understanding.



Joey (Denise's son, Gerri's grandson, and my nephew) turned 7 years old on Jan 11. He had a fun birthday celebration at Justin's Restaurant. He and his friends had a great time playing in their game room. Give a kid a token and he can rule the world! Well, he can rule air-hockey and skee ball anyway!



Happy Birthday Joey! ...we love you!

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