

Frequently Asked Questions

Hearing Aid FAQs.

What are the differences in hearing aid circuitry and hearing aid style?

Historically, hearing aid circuits have fallen into one of two classes. Analog circuits are the older technology and serve to make sounds louder with only a few controls over the quality of sound. Digital circuits are the newer technology and strive to amplify primarily the softer speech sounds. Digital technology is available in entry-level, advanced, and premium tiers. The differences in these tiers are the features available in a particular technology category.

Hearing aid styles

The degree and nature of a person's hearing loss, their lifestyle, and the physical orientation of the ear are all factors in determining the best possible hearing aid style for a patient.

- Behind-the-Ear (BTE). This hearing aid lies behind the ear and is secured with a custom ear mold. It offers the highest available gain and can support a directional microphone system. A directional microphone system is a feature that offers the wearer better understanding of speech in noise.
- In-the-Ear (ITE). This hearing aid is custom-made to fit the wearer's ear. It is available in a larger model called a full shell and a smaller model called a half shell. A directional microphone is available in this style.
- In-the-Canal (ITC). This hearing aid is custom made to fit the wearer's ear. It is slightly smaller than the ITE and offers slightly less gain. A directional microphone option is available in this style.
- Completely-in-the-Canal (CIC). This hearing aid is the smallest custom-fitted product. It inserts deeply into the ear canal and offers the most cosmetic discretion in a custom hearing aid. A directional microphone system is not available in this style due to size constraints.
- Open Canal (OC). This is a miniature BTE hearing aid that fits behind the ear. It is supported by a thin filament that sends sounds into the ear. This style is ideal for persons with normal to near normal low-frequency hearing with a high frequency hearing loss because it helps to maintain a natural sound quality to the hearing aid wearer's voice.
- How do I choose a hearing aid?
 - The hearing aid evaluation is a consultation with the audiologist during which your hearing loss and communication needs are reviewed. The audiologist will recommend the amplification device(s) that best suits your needs. This appointment is scheduled for one hour. There is no charge for this evaluation.
- What if I don't like my hearing aid(s)?
 - Patients are offered a 30-day trial period to fully assess the benefit of their new hearing aid(s).
- What if my hearing aid breaks or is lost?
 - Each hearing aid purchase includes a comprehensive, two-year warranty, covering repairs and a loss or total damage.
- Can I get state-of-the-art hearing aids?
 - Hearing aid technology is ever-changing. Our audiologists stay abreast of this technology in order to offer our clients the best available options.
- Which hearing aid manufacturer is the best?
 - Our clinic is not limited to one hearing aid brand. We maintain a relationship

with several hearing aid manufacturers in order to offer our patients the best option for their particular hearing needs.

- Are digital hearing aids really better than non-digital hearing aids?
 - Our clinic primarily fits digital hearing aid technology. "Digital" is a term that encompasses a large range of items. We sell three tiers of digital technology- Entry level, Advanced, and Premium. A higher technology level offers more sophisticated listening features.
- How much do hearing aids cost?
 - The cost of the hearing aid will vary based on the style and technology level. These prices range from \$1000 to \$3200.
- Many of my friends with hearing aids are dissatisfied. How do I know if I will be satisfied?
 - Hearing aid satisfaction is based on many factors like patient motivation, realistic expectations, and proper fit. The audiologist will work diligently to make sure the hearing fit is optimal and will work with the patient to establish good hearing habits.

What other products and services does the Audiology staff provide?

Other Amplification products and Hearing Products

- Eli®. This is an adapter for behind-the-ear style hearing aids which allows a person to use blue tooth devices, like a mobile phone, in a hands-free fashion.
- Custom earmold for cell phones or mp3 players. A custom mold attaches to wireless cell phone adapters or stereo earbuds. This offers better retention, greater comfort, and superior sound quality.
- Custom hearing protection. We offer many types of hearing protection for people who work or play near excessive noise levels.
- Custom swim molds. Custom molds keep ears dry in the pool or in the shower. These are often used by children or adults with chronic middle ear problems or PE tubes.
- Custom musician plugs. These custom mole is have special: filters that allow for noise protection, while maintaining the integrity of the musical piece.
- TV Ears®. This is a wireless headset used for television viewing. It allows the wearer to control the volume they hear independent of the actual volume of the TV. Family members can watch TV comfortably with their hard-of-hearing loved one.
- FM. This two-part system includes a link to the hearing aid and a remote microphone. The microphone is placed near a speaker to offer direct and wireless communication to the hearing aid user, resulting in better speech-in-noise understanding.
- Earplanes. These disposable ear pieces aid in equalizing pressure during air travel.
- Battery Plan. Our battery plan offers convenience of pre-paying for batteries and then receiving a fresh supply on an as-needed basis. [Click here for our battery plan letter and order form.](#)

Advanced Diagnostic Testing

ABR

- *What is the test?*

Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) aids in the differential diagnosis of hearing and balance disorders. This test allows the audiologist to detect any abnormalities in the pathway from the ear to the lower brainstem. *See frequently asked questions for details about test preparation,*

- *What to expect.*

The test generally takes 20-30 minutes to perform. Four surface electrodes are placed on the patient's head and ears. The electrodes record very small electrical signals. The patient will hear a series of clicks in each ear, delivered via earphones.

- *The patient's role in testing.*

The patient lies down on a table at a slight incline throughout the test. The patient is expected to lie very still with eyes gently closed. The test records very small electrical signals in the body. Muscle movement and eye blinks generate a large electrical signal that masks the electrical charge from the hearing nerve.

- *How to Prepare for the test.*

Please do not wear make-up or facial moisturizers/lotions the day of testing.

VNG

- *What is the test?*

Videonystagmography (VNG) is another test in the differential diagnosis of balance disorders. This test assesses the function of the vestibular or balance system.

- *What to expect?*

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