

PATIENT INFORMATION

What to Expect from your Hearing Aid

What will a hearing aid do for me?

- Your hearing aid will amplify some of the sounds that you are missing out on so that you can hear more clearly.
- A hearing aid is only an aid to your existing hearing and it has its limitations.
- It will not restore your hearing back to normal, but it should help you in some of the situations that you are struggling to hear in.

How does a hearing aid work?

All hearing aids have a built in microphone that picks up sound and converts it into an electrical signal. This signal is processed electronically and converted back into sounds for you to hear. The sound that you will hear should be clear and comfortable, and tailored to your particular hearing loss.

How long will it take before I get used to wearing hearing aids?

As with anything in life, it takes time to get used to something new. While you are getting used to your hearing aid you will need to gradually build up the amount of time you wear it, by starting in a quiet place where there is no background noise.

At first you may find everything sounding unusually loud. Your own voice may sound strange and echo and you will probably find that you are very aware of sounds that you have not heard for a long time (such as kettles boiling and paper rustling). This is quite normal.

It is important to remember that you will not get the full benefit from a hearing aid straight away. The signals from the hearing aid will be reaching an area of your brain which has not heard sounds for a very long time. It will take time for your brain to adapt and to get used to these sounds. But the more you wear your hearing aid and persevere, the more natural these sounds will become.

One hearing aid or two?

In most situations we would recommend wearing 2 hearing aids. There are a number of advantages to this including improved hearing in groups and noisy places and being able to tell where sound is coming from better.

However not everyone is suitable for 2 hearing aids and your audiologist will advise you on this. If you have chosen just to go for 1 we can always fit you up with a second hearing aid at a later date.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.