

Pacific Hearing Service News

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Technology we are Excited About

Lyric: smaller version coming soon!



Peg Lisi, Au.D.,
Menlo Park

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Lyric, it is an invisible, deeply fitted, extended wear device offering 24 hour hearing. It is placed in the ear canal by your audiologist and lasts typically anywhere from 2-4 months. Lyric was developed in our own backyard by InSound in Newark and is now owned by Sonovation, the same company which owns Phonak hearing Instruments.

At Pacific Hearing Service, we have many patients who are passionate about their Lyric Hearing Devices. Unfortunately, many have been unable to wear the Lyric due to ear canal size or discomfort. That is changing soon! In a few months, Phonak will be launching the new, improved device. We expect this will open the door for many of our patients who were unable to wear it earlier. If you tried the Lyric, or were told you were not a candidate because of your ear canal shape or size, give us a call. The Lyric 2 might work for you!

Deep Canal Hearing Aids:



Jane Baxter, Au.D.
Co-owner,
Menlo Park

I am excited about the many new options for people who want "invisible" hearing aids but who have been unable to wear the Lyric extended wear device. If you like the idea of a tiny device but don't

necessarily want to keep it in your ear 24 hours a day, several hearing aid manufacturers have introduced deep canal hearing aids: Starkey SoundLens, Phonak Nano and Oticon Intiga. With miniaturization of the components that go into hearing aids, it's remarkable how sophisticated these tiny instruments can be. If small and high-tech is what you want, there are many new devices to choose from!

Widex Clear



Deborah Clark,
Au.D.
Co-owner, Los Altos
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Widex has been a favorite company of ours for years, and we patiently waited for the FDA to approve the Widex Clear in the United States! It finally became available in Spring of 2011 and we have been very impressed.

Widex Clear is a new line of hearing instruments that incorporates wireless technology allowing the right and left hearing aids to communicate with one another. This results in more accurate "mapping" of sounds in the environment and improved understanding of speech when in background noise. With the advanced remote control called the M-Dex, you can actually focus the amplification to the front, back or side. For example, if you are driving in your car and having difficulty hearing the person sitting in the passenger seat, you can set your hearing aids to focus to the right. This will increase amplification of the person sitting next to you and reduce noise coming from other directions. Our patients tell us they love the improved sound quality and clarity. In addition to improved sound quality, the Widex Clear devices are available with optional remote controls that allow a direct connection to your TV or your Bluetooth cell



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phone. Whether you prefer a behind the ear device, a small open ear device or a customized in-the-ear device, Widex Clear has excellent sound quality!

TV listening



Brook Raguskus, Au.D. Los Altos

Where do I begin with all the options available now for improved listening on the TV? TV volume is one of the number one reasons people come to see their audiologist.

“My family is complaining that the TV is too loud. They are mad at me all the time!” There are a number of ways to enhance TV listening with or without your hearing aids:

Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs): There are many ALDs on the market that use either infrared or FM wireless signals. One of our favorites is the Sennheiser Infrared TV listening device which comes in several models. A wireless headset allows the listener to adjust his/her own volume allowing others in the room to set the volume at a comfortable level. No more loud TVs!



Loop Systems: Loop systems have been around for a long time but are becoming more popular as the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) has been advocating for loop systems to be more available. What is a loop? When used for TV listening, it consists of a wire installed around the

perimeter of the room and plugged into the audio out jack of your TV. If you are wearing hearing aids that incorporate a telecoil, all you have to do is manually turn the telecoil on and they will automatically pick up the TV signal. Since the signal is going through your hearing aids, the volume is always just right.

Hearing Aid Connectivity: Most manufacturers now have hearing aids that can receive a direct signal from your TV or iPod. These accessories are optional devices that can be purchased with the hearing aids or added later to compatible devices. Using Bluetooth or some other wireless signal, the sound is streamed directly to your hearing aids. Many of our patients tell us this offers the clearest signal. If you are thinking about new hearing aids, ask us about hearing aids that have wireless options! It’s amazing what hearing aids can do these days!

Moisture Resistance

Many of our patients have problems with hearing aid maintenance due to exposure to moisture. Maybe you work or vacation in a humid



Shu-En Lim, Au.D. Menlo Park

environment. Or perhaps you have a tendency to accidentally wear your hearing aids in the shower! (If this has happened to you...you are not alone! It’s common!)

If we have ever told you that your hearing aids show signs of moisture damage, one of these hearing aids may be just right for you. Starkey and ReSound have boasted about their moisture control technology for years. They actually demonstrate the effectiveness of the moisture coating by dropping the hearing aids in water!



Now Phonak has joined the ranks with its new mH2O line of hearing devices. Many options are available. Schedule an appointment with one of our audiologists and we can help you determine which of the available devices is most appropriate for you.

Hearing Loss and Falling

A recent study at Johns Hopkins found a correlation between hearing loss and falling. Subjects age 40-69 had their hearing tested and indicated on a questionnaire whether they had experienced a fall within the last year. Researchers found that even people with mild hearing loss were approximately three times as likely to have fallen. As hearing loss increased, falling risk also increased. This is important information for our patients who have either decided to put off purchasing hearing aids or who only wear hearing aids part time. Now there is evidence suggesting that consistent hearing aid use may reduce your risk of falling. For years we have advised our patients to wear their hearing aids consistently in order to avoid auditory deprivation. Now there is another reason. Who knew that wearing hearing aids might just keep you steady on your feet?



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