

Shopping SMART for Hearing Devices – Get it Right the First Time! (or better late than never!)

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Take Three Steps!

FIRST: Be your own best friend and act on your hearing needs. You deserve it!

SECOND: Take advantage of the Hearing Loss Association of Whatcom County.

THIRD: Realize you are helping yourself and all those around you.

THEN MAKE YOUR CHECKLIST!

ENTRUST YOUR HEARING CARE TO AN AUDIOLOGIST

Have a complete hearing test (audiogram)

Acquire an understandable test interpretation in EVERYDAY language

UNDERSTAND YOUR TEST RESULTS

Appropriate devices

TWO hearing aids (bilateral)

Telecoils

Custom programming

ITE's or BTE's –

(NOT just what you think “looks” best on you)

RESEARCH MANUFACTURERS

What they have to offer you!

No monopoly on technology

Risk of single manufacturer's shop

TRY DIFFERENT HEARING AIDS COMPARE PRICES!

Insist on well-fitting, performing hearing devices

Feel comfortable asking for follow-up appointments

Find out what questions to ask

Get your questions answered!

GET THE MOST OUT OF WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

Learn how to use your hearing devices

Know what to expect

Engage in aural rehabilitation (brain training)

MAINTAIN YOUR HEARING DEVICES

Obtain optimum performance

Know what to do, how to do it, how often, and why...

And, take care of your ears, too! 😊

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF PRE-PURCHASE TRIAL PERIOD

Negotiate extensions if needed

Keep records – performance, questions/concerns...

Work with your audiologist to get the best “fit”

Get adjustments you want and need – experiment!

Test hearing with the trial devices

Ask for feedback from family and others

SHOP AROUND FOR INFORMATION!

HLA members – performance, purchase price and service

Learn about:

Purchase contracts

Post purchase services

Insurance benefits

How others “afford” hearing aids!

Consider THE COST & BENEFITS of your decisions because

If you don't act to remedy hearing limitations, you invite

Stress

Frustration

Dependence

Withdrawal

Isolation

Exhaustion

Risk of misdiagnosis – Dementia!

If you DO act to remedy hearing limitations

Prepare to be ***Impressed, Optimistic, Excited!***

Enjoy the challenge to recognize/identify both New or Old sounds!

Check out the “new” you – more confidence, independence

Expect increased personal and social enjoyment

Welcome a higher sense of dignity/self-worth AND, experience

An increased quality of life with widened activity choices

PLUS appreciation from those who care about you!

“IT AIN’T OVER ‘TIL IT’S OVER!”

VISIT YOUR AUDIOLOGIST AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

- Get a complete hearing test (audiogram)
- Obtain an understandable interpretation of the results
- Look for changes
- Reprogram hearing aids for best results

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE!

- Ask questions and get answers!!
- Learn how to use your hearing devices
- Get the most out of your hearing ability
- Insist on well fitting, performing hearing devices
- Know what to expect from your *customized* hearing devices
with and without aural rehabilitation

STAY AWARE; KEEP RECORDS

- Exercise your *entitlement* to follow-up visits
- Work with audiologist to get the best “fit”
- Get all the adjustments you need and want
- Team up with your audiologist
- Participate in and support Whatcom HLA!
- Continue to maintain your hearing devices for *optimum performance*

AURAL REHABILITATION STRATEGIES

- Standard word and sentence tests from audiologist, administered
by family member or friend
- Unabridged audio books from libraries to listen at home, on an iPod,
or in your vehicle. This is best when you read the book along with listening.
- Friends or relatives read aloud from books, magazines, newspapers
- Listen to familiar music and talk radio

AURAL REHABILITATION ON-LINE RESOURCES

Advanced Bionics

<http://www.advancedbionics.com/us/en/home.html>

Scroll to bottom of page and click on your choice of
Hearing Journey, The Listening Room, Musical Atmospheres

Cochlear Americas

<http://hope.cochlearamericas.com/>

Click on Hope Notes, Sound and Way Beyond, and Telephone Training

Med-El Corporation

<http://www.medel.com/>

Scroll to bottom of page and click on SUPPORT
Music, Telephone Tips, and much more