

# *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

Dr. Jane Watson, Audiologist  
Audicles Hearing Services



**mmLearn.org**



*a program of Morningside Ministries*

# *Innovations in Hearing Aid Technology*

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# *Top 5 Questions to Ask When Buying a Hearing Aid*

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# All hearing aids are not the same!

- Hearing aids advertised in magazines- basically just amplifiers
- Fine print sometimes even states “not a hearing aid”
- Similar to “cheater” glasses
- Good for someone who doesn’t engage in group situations very often

# Why are hearing aids so expensive?

- Buying a car-if you need basic ride, car with four wheels will get you there
- If you want AC, a radio and comfortable seats, you will pay more.
- Important to evaluate what you need a hearing aid to do (noise suppression, tcoil)
- Not like dvd players- R&D involved



# How do I know if what I buy is worth it?

- 30 day trial is state law
- Need to wear the aids in your everyday world to evaluate effectiveness
- Should have f/u within 10 day-2weeks to evaluate progress
- Ask your family and friends if they notice a difference-they will be honest! Sometimes they notice the improvement more than you do.

## How long to get used to it?

- Everyone is different in adjustment time
- Best way to adapt is to WEAR it!
- Dentures are the same-don't wait until you're leaving for a steak dinner to try them out
- Most don't lose their hearing overnight so we don't give it all back immediately
- Positive attitude makes adjustments easier and quicker

## What happens if I lose it?

- Most manufacturers have a loss/damage warranty from 1-3 years w/deductible
- Also have insurance companies that cover hearing aids after warranty expires.





## Can they be marked for nursing home residents?

- Absolutely! Sharpies can be used for initials on all styles of aids
- Manufacturer can trace according to serial numbers on the aids



# What's new in technology?

- This is most exciting time to be a provider and also for the consumer
- New processors manage background noise and also enhance speech clarity
- Automatic phone programs
- Automatic volume controls
- Wireless accessories-mini mic, tv streamer and phone clip +-linx

# Phone Clip+



# Mini Microphone



# TV Streamer



# ReSound LiNX

world's first Made for iPhone hearing aid



## What should I ask before I buy?

- What does the cost include? Advertised price may not cover office visits, batteries.
- How difficult is it to get an appt? Dr. offices very hard to get time due to audio. Responsibilities
- How much to try the aids if you return them?
- What is the warranty-what brands do you carry?
- How long have you been in business?

# How do I know if I even need to go see an audiologist?

- If you find yourself turning up TV/radio
- Having increased difficulty understanding in a noisy environment or even in a meeting
- Your family and friends make comments about your hearing 😊
- Baseline tests are painless, get one today!





# How do I choose the right office?

- Ask your friends who wear hearing aids-700 F&F referrals here
- Call and do a phone interview-make sure the staff is friendly and helpful
- Its important o feel comfortable with your provider-you will be with them for awhile!
- Hearing aids today are the best ever and I've done this for 40 years-go take advantage of it!

# Q&A Session

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