



Hearing & Audiology Newsletter - Winter 2011



Funny Bits

We have been busy this month replacing & repairing hearing aids eaten or damaged by dogs. Some unfortunate people have had this happen more than once.

One of our clients aware of her dog's fetish was very careful not to leave hearing aids within reach. One day she slipped up when her husband let the dog in - and you guessed it - all that she found was batteries.



"I didn't mean to"

We now have a collection point at our Subiaco rooms for you to dispose of your used batteries in an environmentally friendly way.



Welcome to our Winter Newsletter

Welcome to our winter edition hopefully you have seen some rain where you are. This newsletter we are focusing on telephone use and as always there are some exciting advances in technology including the first ever WATERPROOF hearing aid sounds too good to be true but read on.

Aquaris by Siemens

All our audiologists attended a demonstration of the new Aquaris by Siemens and watched with amazement as a hearing aid was submerged in a glass of water for 30 minutes before being handed around in perfect working order for all to see.

International testing has given this aid an Ingress protection rating of IP57 which is dust resistance (for 8hrs in heavy dust conditions) and moisture resistance (30mins submerged at one metre) making Aquaris the perfect solution for individuals who spend a lot of time in humid or dusty environments like construction, farming and even athletes. With the correct mould it is even possible to swim with the Aquaris!

All this and it still has a 3 year warranty including a recommended annual service. Available from the 4th of July in a premium and advanced models with cosmetic slim tube and wireless options.

Quantum by Unitron

Hearing aid manufacturers spend a lot of time and money on constantly developing and improving their technology so we will be able to hear better in more challenging situations. Understanding speech in different types of background noise is an ongoing area of improvement. Quantum using the ERA digital platform has increased its number of situational detectors from 6 to 46 enabling it to better clarify the type of noise present and so switch to the most appropriate processing strategy for best hearing. It has faster signal processing, reduces noise faster, and enhances speech with its Smart Focus enabling you to focus in on voices and exclude noise.

We have found that Unitron has one of the best wind noise management features, especially helpful for outdoor activities and if you live in Geraldton!

Wireless connectivity between the hearing aids enables you to adjust the volume or programming of the aid on both aids together by adjusting just one aid. You can also hear the phone in stereo. Bluetooth links for mobile phone and TV means greater clarity and hands free use. A very user friendly remote control is also available.

These aids are available in all styles from the smallest completely in the canal to the strongest behind the ear aid.

Ring us on (08) 9388 8003 for an appointment to try these new aids.

**For ongoing updates on the latest technology please go to our website:
www.hearingandaudiology.com.au**

Clear Fusion by Widex

Widex (in Denmark) has released the Clear Fusion range of hearing aids with extra nanocoating giving protection from moisture, sweat and wind noise. An extended high frequency response (up to 9.6kHz) gives better clarity of speech.

They also have an audibility extender for those of you with a severe to profound high frequency loss which is not able to be amplified by traditional hearing aids. By using Frequency Transposition, the information that you need from these higher frequencies is transferred to those lower frequencies which you are able to hear. Telephone calls are transmitted wirelessly to both of your hearing aids simultaneously. Connection to your TV, mobile phone and a remote are also available.



Make the most of your phone

One of the main means of communication for us all – the telephone – often causes a lot of problems with hearing aid users. They either can't hear the phone clearly, or the hearing aid whistles when the phone is held to the ear.

Correct placement of the telephone to the ear is essential for good hearing. The phone must be positioned close to the microphone of the hearing aid – which means above the ear if you have a behind-the-ear hearing aid.

Those of you with greater hearing losses may benefit from the use of the telecoil setting in your hearing aid which operates via magnetic induction best used with your fixed home phone – not cordless.

Most hearing aids have an automatic phone programme available dedicated to improving hearing over the phone which needs to be setup when programming your hearing aid. Please contact us if you need this option.

The latest hearing aids have better feedback cancellation to stop the whistling. Some even have a feature enabling you to hear the phone in stereo in both ears at the same time.



Mobile phones are often difficult especially when using in noisy shopping centers – the new Bluetooth technology enables the sound to go directly into both your ears at the same time eliminating background noise. No fumbling in your handbag or pocket for the phone.

If all else fails use your loudspeaker on your telephone – it's very simple to use and enables you and your partner to listen at the same time! We now have a range of phones available – hands free and with a speaker.

Come and try an amplified phone at our Subiaco rooms.

Hints for Phone Use

Place the phone close to the microphone of the hearing aid

Cut down background noise e.g., turn off TV.

Use a loudspeaker on your phone.

Try New technology – better feedback control (no whistling), hear the phone in both ears at the same time, eliminate outside noise & stereo hearing.



Don't lose it

Over the last few months we have had a number of hearing aids eaten by dogs (see our story). We suggest that when you take your hearing aid out at night you keep it in the box provided. If it needs to dry out think about using a Dri-aid kit (\$15) or at least put it up out of reach.

Tissues are not recommended for storing your hearing aid. Hearing aids placed in tissues are often mistaken for rubbish and cleaners will throw them in the bin! This frequently happens in hospitals so beware.

We recommend you insure your hearing aids so that you are covered for any mishaps. Contact your household contents insurers for further information. If you obtained free hearing aids through the government these are replaced for a small fee but Top-up hearing aids should be insured for replacement value.



Hearing & Audiology

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Hearing begins... right here