What should cancer survivors know about hearing loss?

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a month for great celebration, inspiration, and support for the many people who have survived cancer, along with their families, friends, and communities. It is also a month to promote awareness of the ongoing challenges that cancer survivors face, as well as a time to provide resources so they can continue to enjoy fulfilling lives.

If you have experienced cancer and cancer treatment, Hearing Professionals of Illinois encourages you to take our free, confidential, online hearing check to help determine if you need a comprehensive hearing test by a hearing healthcare professional. Certain chemotherapy medications and radiation therapy treatments for certain cancers may damage healthy cochlear hair cells found in the inner ear and result in hearing loss.

Fortunately, the vast majority of people with hearing loss can benefit from hearing aids. And research shows that people with hearing loss who use hearing aids enjoy a better overall quality of life and are more likely to be optimistic and feel engaged in their life.

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, one of our manufacturers-Oticon, is donating a portion of all Alt2 sales for October to the National Breast Cancer Coalition to support breast cancer research. A special Pink Alt2 hearing device is the centerpiece of the national campaign that allows people to choose a quality, high performance hearing solution and, at the same time, show their support for a very worthy cause.

For more information on the benefits of treating hearing loss and the link between hearing loss and other health issues, visit our website at www.HearIllinois.com (Information courtesy of Better Hearing Institute)
DID YOU KNOW?

Hearing loss is the third most common physical condition among adults in the U.S. after arthritis and heart disease. Although early detection and intervention are the most important factors in minimizing the impact of hearing loss, the average patient waits more than 7 years before seeking treatment. Don’t wait, make sure you hear everything around you.

Contact Hearing Professionals of Illinois and make an appointment to get your hearing checked!

SOUND ADVICE

I am so excited to give my advice in this new column. The topic that I want to address is why it is important to buy hearing instruments from a medically based audiology practice versus purchasing them on the internet or from large members-only warehouse retailers. Why should you choose an audiologist? An audiologist is the health care professional who specializes in the measurement, diagnosis and rehabilitation of hearing and balance disorders in children and adults. An audiologist has a master’s or doctoral degree and must be licensed by their state to practice audiology. Although the vast majority of hearing problems do not require medical or surgical intervention, audiologists are clinically and academically trained to determine those that do need a medical referral. As a licensed healthcare provider, the audiologist appropriately refers patients to physicians when the history, the physical presentation, or the results of the audiological evaluation (hearing test) indicate the possibility of a medical or surgical problem. Hearing loss is a healthcare issue. Therefore, it should be addressed by the licensed medical professional most qualified to treat that condition. In contrast, most franchised and warehouse retailers are often stumped by hearing instrument dispensers with minimal training and limited expertise.

When a patient considers amplification, the services the audiologist provides are extensive. These include a thorough explanation of the hearing test results, educating the patient regarding effective communication strategies, understanding realistic expectations, and the expertise in programming the hearing instruments so that they are fine tuned appropriately for the patient. The audiologist also performs objective testing including verification measures to ensure the instruments are set appropriately. The patient will be educated about hearing aid accessories, such as Bluetooth devices, if the audiologist feels it will be beneficial. The services a patient may receive online or at warehouse retailers can be limited, especially if the patient has an underlying condition that requires medical attention. Additionally, the most current hearing instrument technology may not be offered which can impact the patient’s success, especially when it comes to options for background noise. As you can see, a high degree of expertise is needed to program and fit hearing instruments appropriately, so ordering them over the internet is very risky.

The audiologists at Hearing Professionals of Illinois work very closely with the physicians of Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists of Illinois. Our philosophy is that fitting hearing instruments is just the beginning of our lasting relationship with you, and we are committed to providing exceptional care and service for the life of your hearing instruments.

OUR STAFF

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Personalize your listening experience with Bluetooth technology

Hearing instrument manufacturers have created hearing instruments which are compatible with accessories that allow you to stream sound from electronic devices like TV, MP3 players, smartphones and gaming consoles directly into your hearing aids using Bluetooth technology. Now individuals with hearing difficulties can enjoy their favorite shows, music, or online media at their desired listening level, while the rest of the family listens at theirs.

Manufacturers of wireless hearing aids have created a clever solution for accessing Bluetooth technology without adding extreme stress to the hearing aid’s battery power. Wireless hearing aids can use compatible assistive listening devices, often called streamers, to provide a communication link between the wireless technology in the hearing aids and any Bluetooth-enabled device. The wireless hearing aids can be paired with the streamer and then the streamer can be paired with external devices. After pairing, the streamer will pick up the Bluetooth signal from your phone, for example, and send it to your hearing aids via an FM signal or electromagnetic field, depending on the manufacturer’s design. Usually the streamer is worn around the neck or placed in a pocket for hands-free operation.

Although you often must carry an additional device in order to access your mobile phone or music player, a streamer provides many opportunities that were previously unavailable to a hearing aid user: personalized listening experience, multiple connections and remote control access.

The streamed signal can be amplified and shaped to match the hearing aid’s personalized settings. The volume of the stream may be controlled by the streamer or the hearing aids, depending on the manufacturer’s design. In the case of a music player, the hearing aids can become a set of wireless ear buds. Streaming to a smartphone allows for hands-free operation and the ability to hear the conversation in both ears. Watching television is easier, since the signal is sent directly to the hearing aids, allowing you to watch at your preferred volume while others listen at theirs. Multiple devices can usually be paired to one streamer, so you can easily switch between different devices. For example, you can be connected to your mobile phone while you are watching television.

The streamer is able to interrupt the audio from the TV in order to bring you the audio signal from an incoming phone call. Commonly, there are also capabilities for remotely changing the volume or program from the streamer. This is especially useful if your hearing aids are too small to accommodate external controls.

Bluetooth-enabled streamers are assistive listening devices that have greatly elevated the hearing aid wearing experience. It’s an example of using today’s wireless hearing aid technology in a smart way that truly provides convenience for the individual with hearing loss.

For more information, talk to your audiologist about wireless hearing aids and Bluetooth streaming options or visit our website www.HearIllinois.com

(Info courtesy of Healthy Hearing)

Give Yourself
The Gift Of Better Hearing…

With the holidays approaching, enjoy your time with family and friends by taking advantage of discounted pricing on our stock of last years hearing instrument technology. We have limited stock available and it will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

If you are interested in premium technology at a lower price, this is a good time for you to check out what we have and enjoy better hearing this holiday season.

Inquire today before our stock runs out! (847) 674-5585

HAPPY & HEALTHY HEARING

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