

**AUDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES OF EAST TEXAS
DAVID L. TWOMEY**

**1018 Pruitt Place
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David L. Twomey, Audiologist has been in practice in Tyler, Texas since July 1, 1984. He earned his Master's Degree in Audiology from the University of Maryland in 1978. He began his career in Audiology in 1973 while serving in the Army at Kimbrough Army Hospital, Ft. Meade, MD.

He is a Medicare provider and in network for most insurance carriers. Co-pays for initial hearing testing are accepted.

* He is NOT a Medicaid provider.

* When hearing aids are a covered benefit, the insurance carrier is billed. The patient is only responsible for the balance of the hearing aid cost not covered by insurance.

As an audiologist he provides comprehensive hearing evaluations, hearing aid sales and service.

WHAT A NEW PATIENT SHOULD EXPECT

New patient appointments are scheduled for at least 1 1/4 hours. The appointment consists of:

1. A history of the patient's hearing loss and relevant medical history of ear disease and treatments that may have included medical management, surgery and hearing aid use.
2. Video otoscopy is performed to inspect the ear canal for deformities, excessive cerumen, disease and tympanic membrane abnormalities to include TM perforation, tympanosclerosis and to determine if TM landmarks are absent. Cerumen will be removed as necessary.

COMPREHENSIVE HEARING EVALUATION

1. Puretone testing is performed by air and bone conduction, speech discrimination using headphones. These tests help determine if a middle ear disorder, cochlear deficit or retrocochlear disorder is present.
2. Puretone testing in soundfield by presenting puretones through loudspeakers. This test rules out collapsed ear canal caused by earphone pressure. It is also used for comparing unaided and aided threshold changes when evaluating hearing aid performance.
3. Tympanometry is performed to determine if there is any abnormality with the tympanic membrane or middle ear function. This test is useful in determining tympanic membrane mobility, TM perforations, tympanosclerosis, abnormal middle ear pressure that may be consistent with eustachian tube dysfunction, and ossicular chain disorders such as otosclerosis.

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HEARING AID SERVICE

1. 60 day trial period. A full refund of the cost of the hearing aid is made if the hearing aids are unsatisfactory.
2. Minimum of 1 year no charge service for adjustments to improve hearing aid performance.
3. Either 2 or 3 year warranty which includes a loss or damage replacement once during the warranty period. Warranty period is determined by which hearing aid is purchased.
4. Routine maintenance of the hearing aids is provided at no charge for the life of the hearing aid.
5. Primary hearing aid manufacturer we dispense is Siemens.

HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

Two primary features are equalizers and environmental noise. A hearing aid may have up to 20 independent equalizers and compression channels. These features and others are adjusted by the audiologist using computer software.

1. Equalizers are used to adjust the amount of speech amplification that is necessary to restore normal hearing sensitivity where the hearing loss exists. The more equalizers the greater flexibility in matching the proper amount of amplification for the range of hearing where the hearing loss exists.
2. Compression is used to reduce the over amplification of transient environmental noise such as silverware and dish rattle and steady state noise found in groups and social activities.
3. Anti-feedback circuitry is used to reduce annoying whistling.
4. Directional microphones that differentiate the amount of amplification from in front of and from behind the hearing aid user. Hearing aids have multiple programs the user can select to enhance their speech understanding in a variety of environments.
6. Bluetooth streaming. Hearing aids are capable of connecting to cell phones through bluetooth. Bluetooth streaming is also possible to the television. The hearing aid user may adjust the level of the hearing aid to meet their listening needs regardless of the loudness of the television.

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QUALITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

1. The clinical practice focuses on identification and assessment of hearing loss, comprehensive treatment plans which may include a referral to the patient's PCP or ENT specialist, the use of hearing aids, education and long-term relationships with patients.
2. He listens to the patient's perceived need so they may hear and understand speech better.
3. He encourages family members to accompany the patient for the evaluation and treatment plan. As communication breaks down, so can interpersonal relationships.
4. Hearing loss interferes with social interaction and detracts from enjoyment of life. This may cause some people to withdraw from social situations. Hearing aids improve a patient's ability to enjoy life and communicate with others more effectively and efficiently.
5. The success of using a hearing aid begins with choosing the proper technology level and style of the hearing aid. The choice of an audiologist is important when it comes to programming the hearing aids for maximum effectiveness to meet the needs of the individual. A hearing aid is only as good as the professional who programs the hearing aid to best meet the individual's needs.
6. It is important to select a hearing aid that best meets the patient's physical ability to manipulate hearing aid controls and cognitive ability to adapt the use of the hearing aid to varying environmental situations.
7. He discourages the purchase of hearing aids online or by mail order. There is no professional involvement in these cases.