

A research study with more than 5000 consumers with hearing loss in both ears demonstrated that binaurally fit subjects (two hearing aids) are more satisfied than those monaurally fit (one hearing aid). When given the choice and allowed to hear binaurally, the overwhelming majority of consumers chose two hearing aids over one.

to lose its ability to hear and understand. This is called auditory deprivation.

2. **Better understanding of speech.** By wearing two hearing instruments rather than one, selective listening is more easily achieved. This means your brain can focus on the conversation you want to hear.

of hearing aids. Stereo is much better than mono hearing.

6. **Smoother tone quality.** Wearing two hearing instruments generally requires less volume. This results in less distortion and better reproduction of sounds.

7. **Longer hearing range.** A person can

8 REASONS TO PURCHASE TWO HEARING AIDS INSTEAD OF ONE

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Consequently, binaural users tend to communicate better in their place of worship, in small group gatherings, large gatherings, and even outdoors. Naturally, a person's ability to enjoy hearing aids will differ based on the specific hearing loss and the type of technology used in the hearing aids.

Nevertheless, if you have a hearing loss in both ears and there is useable hearing in your poorer ear, budget permitting, I would recommend a hearing aid for both ears. Here's why:

1. **Keeps both ears active, resulting in less hearing deterioration.** Research has shown that when only one hearing instrument is worn, the unaided ear tends

3. **Better understanding in groups and noisy situations.** Some people think that wearing two hearing aids in noisy places would be twice as bad; however, speech intelligibility is improved in difficult listening situations when wearing two hearing aids.

4. **Better ability to tell the direction of sound.** For example, in a social situation localization allows you to hear from which direction someone is speaking to you. In traffic, you can tell from which direction a car or siren is coming.

5. **Better sound quality.** When listening to a stereo system, you can use both speakers to get a smooth, sharp, natural sound quality. The same thing can be said

hear sounds from a further distance with two ears, rather than just one.

8. **Hearing is less tiring and listening more pleasant.** More binaural hearing aid wearers report that listening and participating in conversation is more enjoyable with two instruments. This is because you do not have to strain to hear with the better ear. Thus, binaural hearing can help make listening more relaxing and less of a chore.

See your licensed audiologist. Have your hearing tested and see if you can enjoy hearing from both ears again.

-adapted with permission from Sergel Kochkin, Ph.D. of the Better Hearing Institute.

