

There are several common myths and "urban legends" about hearing loss. Today's article (Part Two of Two in a Series) tries to point out some of the myths about hearing loss, along with the actual truth behind them.

life. Plus, many of the newer hearing devices are not large or bulky.

Hearing instruments will make me look "older" and "handicapped".

Fear of "looking old" is often a deterrent for persons who would benefit

than the largest hearing instrument.

Both of the owners of Best Hearing Center have developed hearing loss in their 40s and wear hearing aids to help them function in the business world and in their social life.

I am concerned about the integrity of hearing health professionals.

The state of Illinois requires that anyone dispensing hearing aids have a license. Audiology licensing information can be found at <http://www.idfpr.com/license.asp> or you may call

Myths About Hearing Loss

(Part 2)

By Dr. Audrey G. Freeman, Doctor of Audiology



"The consequences of hiding a hearing loss are better than wearing hearing instruments."

What price are you paying for vanity? Untreated hearing loss is far more noticeable than hearing instruments. If you miss a punch line to a joke or respond inappropriately in conversation, people may have concerns about your mental acuity, your attention span, or your ability to communicate effectively. The personal consequences of vanity can be life altering. At a simplistic level, untreated hearing loss means giving up some of the pleasant sounds you used to enjoy. At a deeper level, vanity could severely reduce the quality of your

from hearing instruments. It is not the hearing instruments that make one look older, it is what one may believe they imply. If hearing instruments help you function like a normal hearing person, for all intents and purposes, the stigma is removed. Hearing instrument manufacturers are well aware that cosmetic appearance is an issue to many people. That's why many different styles of devices are available today. But more importantly, keep in mind that an untreated hearing loss is often more obvious than a hearing instrument. Smiling and nodding your head when you don't understand what's being said makes your condition more apparent

Hearing instruments will make everything sound too loud.

Hearing devices are amplifiers. It's true that many older hearing instruments amplified loud and soft sounds equally which made other louder and/or undesirable sounds (such as background noise) too loud. With today's hearing instruments, however, the circuit works automatically providing more amplification for soft sounds than loud ones. Many devices have noise suppression circuits. This makes listening more comfortable.

(217) 785-0800. You may also check with the Better Business Bureau at www.chicago.bbb.org and click on company report or call 312-832-0500. If you are not satisfied with one hearing practitioner, you may be more satisfied with another. The choice is up to you. Choose a hearing provider with whom you feel comfortable and confident.

The best way to find out if you have a hearing impairment is to call an audiologist to have your hearing tested. Call today!

(This information was derived from data obtained by Sergei Kochkin, Ph.D., with permission from the Better Hearing Institute.)