

There is nothing more important to the manufacturers of hearing aids and the audiologists (hearing specialist) that fit them than your satisfaction with their product and their services. Like any smart business person, they know that satisfied customers lead to repeat business and to positive word-of-mouth advertising. The audiologist needs to ensure that they

2. Motivation

Advanced hearing aid technology can compensate for most hearing losses, but there are many who are not ready to accept this fact. People with hearing loss are in different stages of readiness to obtain help. The most satisfied hearing aid users are those that are highly motivated to improve their hearing. These individuals have an infinitely better

hearing aids that have directional (more than one) microphones. He found that both in the lab and in the real world directional microphones allow people to understand speech in many difficult listening situations.

4. Do Not Purchase Based Only on Cosmetics

Since the 1990s, the hearing aid industry

OPTIMIZE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING A SATISFIED HEARING AID WEARER

by Audrey G. Freeman Au.D. - Doctor of Audiology

have done everything possible to meet your needs. You also have an important roll to play in assuring your satisfaction with new hearing aids. Here are some suggestions for optimizing the chances that you will be a satisfied hearing aid user.

1. Meeting Your Needs

To meet your hearing needs the audiologist will need to identify your needs and find ways to fulfill them. Think of how your hearing loss has impacted your life, job, relationships, and opportunities. Identify the listening environments where you experience the most difficulty. Write these down and discuss them with your audiologist. You can return to this list after you receive your hearing aids to note the hearing improvement you have experienced.

chance of success with hearing aids. They recognize their hearing loss and are open to change. They tend to seek out relevant information related to hearing loss and the technology available to them. They are more likely to discuss problems with their audiologist at follow-up visits to have adjustments made and learn to adapt to their new hearing ability.

3. Choice of Technology

Dr. Sergei Kochkin of the Better Hearing Institute has conducted many research studies on various types of hearing aid technology. He has found that consumers are more satisfied with the newer advanced types that allow the audiologist to adjust the patient's hearing aid in their office versus those aids that have to be sent back to the manufacturer for adjustments. Dr. Kochkin also performed studies on

has reduced the size of hearing aids significantly. The problem is that the smallest hearing aid may not be the most suitable hearing solution for each person. Some of the newest behind-the-ear aids are very small and have tiny tube going inside the ear to improve the looks of wearing a hearing aid and to have a more open ear feeling. Your audiologist can work with you to determine and select the size and type of device best suited for your hearing needs.

If you wear hearing aids and are dissatisfied with your hearing, or you are interested in enriching your hearing experience by exploring hearing aids for the first time, be sure to visit your licensed audiologist soon. You'll be glad you did.

