

BEST HEARING CENTER

Summer, 2007

WHAT DID WE LEARN IN DENVER ?



As you may recall from the last newsletter, Dr. Freeman and Anna, our office manager, attended the 2007 Academy of Audiology Convention in April, 2007, that was held in Denver, Colorado. We have had so many people want to know what we learned and what new products are available that we decided to tell all of you in our quarterly newsletter.

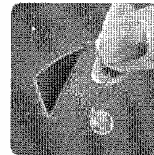
The amount of new devices was overwhelming, but we have narrowed down the list to a few new ones we will have available in our office. Our first decision on which products to use was made by determining which new hearing aids have new features our patients can use. We also take into consideration which hearing aid companies have reliable service, reasonable pricing, and good research to backup their claims.

One new product from GN ReSound is called the Azure. It comes in the standard in-the-ear sizes and in the new miniature behind-the-ear style. This hearing aid has natural directionality that helps you hear in noisy areas easier. The computer software to adjust this aid is much more sophisticated than we've had before. Dr. Freeman can adjust the devices for soft and loud sounds in different environments without changing the volume for normal conversation. Dr. Freeman's husband and co-owner of Best Hearing Center, Brian, tried the demonstration Azure hearing aids we received for our office. She asked him to try them over the weekend. He liked them so much that he wouldn't give them back, and we had to order him his own set. Brian reported that they sounded more natural than any hearing aids he had tried. We now have the demonstration Azure aids in our office if you would like to listen to them.



Dr. Freeman had been anxiously awaiting the introduction of a new product from Oticon called Epoq. This hearing aid will be available July, 2007. It has bluetooth connectivity to connect wirelessly to your cell phone or other bluetooth devices. We thought this device would just have a button to press to connect to the cell phone or other devices; however, it has a white streamer about the size of a small iPod that hangs on a rope around your neck. Hopefully in years to come the connector will become smaller and more user friendly.

Oticon • Epoq

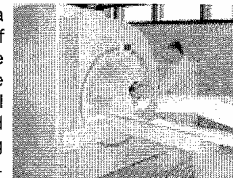


The Oticon Delta hearing aid, like the one Dr. Freeman wears, was still being promoted as one of the most innovative devices on the market.

If any of these new devices sound like something you'd like to see or listen to, please call Anna for a free appointment.

MRI WARNING

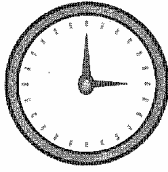
Be aware that an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) machine could damage your hearing aid. ALWAYS remove your hearing aid prior to having this procedure done. Let the technician know that they may need to speak louder and slower while your hearing aids are not being worn. MRI technicians are supposed to ask you if you're wearing a hearing aid, but with some of the new devices, the technicians don't always see them. We have had several patients' hearing aids need repair due to them being damaged during an MRI exam.



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EVENING OFFICE HOURS



We're going to be open on Monday evenings starting this summer. Beginning 6-25-07, Dr. Freeman will be seeing patients on Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. We have many patients who find it difficult to take off work during our usual 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. schedule. To better serve all of our patients, we will now be open Monday evenings. Anna will still be in the office Monday mornings to answer calls or assist when patients stop by to pick up batteries or TV Ears.

SUMMER VACATION

Dr. Freeman will be out of the office July 16 - July 20, 2007. She will be taking the time off to move her residence (NOT the office) locally. Anna, our office manager, will be out of the office Wednesday afternoon through Friday of that week to spend time with her family.



SO THE WORLD MAY HEAR

Thanks to all of you who have donated unused hearing aids. The Hear Now program collected 35,583 hearing aids last year, 939 of those were from Illinois. If you have any hearing aids, even if they are not working, that are not being used, ask Anna how to donate them. You can write off the donation on your taxes next year.



TONE DEAFNESS

Tone deafness, called congenital amusia, is a life long disability that prevents otherwise normal functioning individuals from developing basic musical skills. A study done by the Montreal Neurological Institute and the Newcastle University Medical School examined brain structures that correlate to tone deafness. MRI scans from a group of tone deaf people were compared to MRI images of people with normal musical ability to see if there were any significant differences.



The researchers consistently found that the right frontal brain area had a tract of white brain matter that was less dense in those with tone deafness. These results will have implications for the understanding of normal acquisition of musical skills.

WALK 4 HEARING

Hearing Loss Association of America is sponsoring a Walk 4 Hearing on October 6, 2007, in Chicago. The walk is designed to raise money for the awareness and support of the hearing impaired. You can find more out about the walk on the internet at www.walk4hearing.org. You can learn about the Hearing Loss Association of American at www.hearingloss.org.

