



[www.hearingexcellence.ca](http://www.hearingexcellence.ca) | [info@hearingexcellence.ca](mailto:info@hearingexcellence.ca)

## Reasonable Expectations of Hearing Aids

### **1. Expect Differing Opinions;**

You may get differing opinions on which is the best hearing aid for you. There are, in fact, many excellent hearing aid brands and types of circuitry available that may benefit you. We use the information gathered from the comprehensive hearing test combined with your listening needs and lifestyle to make the best recommendation for you.

### **2. Expect a recommendation to purchase two hearing aids if you have a hearing loss in both ears;**

There is some beneficial value to being able to hear with both ears; a) enhanced volume and speech perception, b) better speech understanding in noisy situations c) better able to locate sound. If you have hearing loss in both ears and wear only one hearing aid, you will still have significant hearing issues even under the best of circumstances.

### **3. Expect an initial orientation session;**

Invite your family member or significant other to attend this session to get familiarized with your new aids. You will be taught how to operate, clean and change the batteries of your aids. You will also receive written information about your aids. It may be difficult to remember everything, so don't leave the office without your instruction booklet!

### **4. Expect a period of Adjustment and adaptation;**

Expect an adjustment period of several days to many weeks to get used to the sound, daily care, use and maintenance of your hearing aids. We recommend you go slowly, learn one thing at a time, practice, and stay in contact with us. You will hear sounds that you have not heard in a long time, some will be pleasant and other sounds will be startling. It takes time for the brain to re-learn these sounds. Be patient!

### **5. Expect your own voice to sound different;**

Your voice will at first sound strange, as if it is coming from a barrel. This is a normal early perception often called the "occlusion effect". If you don't start to adjust to this after a few days, discuss it with us. Many times, this feeling can be alleviated through changing certain parts of the aids or changing the amount of volume for certain tones.



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**6. It is important to expect multiple follow-up appointments;**

Hearing aids are highly sophisticated instruments with many features. The software allows us to make multiple adjustments. So be sure to tell us as much as you can about your listening experiences in many different environments. As you get used to your aids, we may increase the amount of amplification over a few visits. That will help your adjustment period and lessen chances of rejection due to over-amplifying sounds.

**7. Expect to be able to hear well in quiet one-on-one listening situations;**

You should be able to hear most of what is said without having to watch a person's lips all the time. However, even people with normal hearing watch the person speaking to gain more information. You should combine vision with hearing to maximize your hearing benefit.

**8. Expect a limit to your optimal distance for hearing;**

The best distance for hearing depends on the type of microphones your hearing aids have and the other noise within the environment. People within approximately 6 to 8 feet of you will be most audible. Once you increase the distance it will become increasingly more difficult to hear.

**9. Expect to have some difficulty listening in noisy hearing situations;**

Often noisy situations are the ones in which individuals need most help. Background noise is a nuisance for everyone, even for those who enjoy normal hearing. Some of the more sophisticated digital circuitry can effectively reduce background noise. If you are in a lot of noisy environments, it is important to discuss this with us when choosing your hearing aid circuitry.

**10. Expect to have your hearing devices repaired occasionally;**

Hearing aids are inserted in the ear canal where moisture and earwax are waiting to attack any foreign object. Hearing aids are also prone to being dropped. Today's technology is more shock resistant than ever but try to handle your hearing aids over a carpeted floor at first while learning to use them. Most repairs can be avoided with regular and careful maintenance.

**11. Expect warranty coverage with your new hearing aid purchase;**

Hearing aids always come with a warranty coverage from the manufacturer. Loss and damage claims always carry a deductible service fee and may carry an earmold fee as well.



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**12. Expect to buy batteries;**

The level of power in hearing aids requires a higher level of battery drain compared to more simplistic electronic devices. Hearing aid battery life varies and is dependent on several factors such as size, brand, and freshness.

**13. Expect to purchase new hearing aids every 4 to 5 years;**

Hearing aid technology changes rapidly, just like computers and other electronics, therefore, new technology may benefit you greatly. Some people may keep the same pair of hearing aids for more than 5 years, especially if their hearing loss remains stable over time and they take good care of them. However, due to the wear and tear of microelectronic parts, the average life expectancy is a few years.

**14. Expect to hear sounds you haven't heard before;**

Your hearing aids are a key ingredient to staying active and improving quality of life. Remember, the aim is that you will once again enjoy social events, leisure activities and conversations with friends, family, and co-workers.