

New Hope for Hearing Loss

Most of us take immediate action when we first experience a health problem. If we have a lingering headache, or our vision is blurry, we pick up the phone. We call our doctor to diagnose the problem and follow his or her recommendations to resolve it. Not so with hearing problems. How many people do you know who suffer in silence or refuse to go to movies or parties because they cannot hear?

“People often wait until they are having tremendous difficulty before getting their first hearing test - sometimes as long as five years after first noticing hearing problems.” according to Dr. Joan McCormack, audiologist with Atlantic Hearing Care in Swampscott. “They think everyone is mumbling or that nothing can be done. Or maybe they tried a hearing aid several years ago with limited success.”

Most people with hearing loss have nerve deafness, also called sensorineural hearing loss. They are surprised to learn that hearing aids *DO* help nerve deafness. In fact, according to McCormack, the majority of people who wear hearing aids today have some form of nerve deafness. Hearing aids have been proven to improve quality of life, reestablishing family communication and reducing isolation.

Today’s new digital hearing aids offer hope for hearing loss. They are available in a wide range of styles and features to meet a variety of needs and budgets. The digital circuit reduces background noise and the annoyance of sound leakage which causes whistling or feedback. The new open ear mini-hearing aids reduce the perception of the wearer’s own voice. “High technology hearing aids can connect to your TV, remote microphones, and even your iPod or stereo. Blue tooth connections to cell phones mean people can hear the cell phone through their hearing aids in both ears -- a huge advantage” says McCormack. “We think everyone should come in for testing as soon as they notice difficulty. Ideally adults should get a baseline hearing test when they turn 50”.