

Current Hearing Aid Technology

Some things to know about hearing aids today:

- *They don't whistle any more.*
- *They're small and cosmetically appealing and even come in fun colors.*
- *There are special features to reduce background noise.*
- *Sounds from the front can be louder than those coming from behind.*
- *Special programs are available for listening to music.*

Wireless connectivity makes TV more enjoyable and phone use easier.

TV devices can send the audio signal from the TV directly to the patient's hearing aids. This makes it possible for them to hear comfortably without disturbing others in the room. Hearing aids can connect to cell phones and other Bluetooth devices. And hearing aids can communicate with each other to improve binaural processing.

Hearing aids can treat tinnitus.

Some products have maskers available as a special program in the hearing aid. It can be adjusted to match the frequency and intensity of the tinnitus to offer patients relief. Other products have fractal tone generators to play soft tones and offer habituation to the tinnitus over time.

Frequencies can be lowered to improve audibility.

Patients with more severe losses often have "dead zones" in the cochlear where there is no response to sound. Hearing aids can move the important speech sounds occurring in the non-responsive region to a lower frequency where they can be perceived. This is called frequency lowering technology and it usually improves the patient's ability to understand speech.

With so many solutions available, most people can benefit from amplification.