

CENTRE FOR HEARING AND EAR IMPLANTS

Hearing Aids



Singapore
General Hospital
SingHealth

What is a hearing aid?

A hearing aid is an electronic device that you wear in or behind your ear. It amplifies sounds to assist people with hearing difficulties.

How does a hearing aid work?

A hearing aid has three basic parts: a microphone, amplifier, and speaker. Sounds are picked up by the microphone, converted into electrical signals and sent to an amplifier. The amplifier increases the loudness of the signals and sends them to the ear through a speaker.

How can hearing aids help?

- Hearing aids can improve hearing in everyday situations. They are especially useful in picking up sounds you've been missing out and making them clearer for the brain to understand.
- Advances in technology have made hearing aids better in capturing speech sounds while reducing some background noise. However, this does not restore normal hearing. You may still experience trouble hearing in noisy places. Learning communication strategies can help you understand conversations better in such situations.

What are the different styles of hearing aids?

There are three basic styles of hearing aids. They differ in size, placement on/in the ear, and the amount of amplification they provide. The audiologist will recommend the most suitable style of hearing aid based on the patient's audiological configuration and needs.

- Behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids are worn behind the ear and require the use of a custom-made ear mould. They are suitable for mild to profound hearing losses.
- Another miniature BTE hearing aid style called the receiver-in-canal (RIC) hearing aid is also available. The RIC has a thin wire connected to a speaker unit that is inserted into the ear canal. It is suitable for mild to severe hearing losses.
- Custom hearing aids include in-the-ear (ITE), in-the-canal (ITC) and completely-in-canal (CIC) hearing aids. They are custom made according to the size and shape of the individual's ear. ITE hearing aids are suitable for adults with mild to moderately severe hearing losses, while the ITC and CIC hearing aids are suitable for adults with mild to moderate hearing losses.

(1) Behind the ear (2) Receiver in canal



(3) In the ear (4) In the canal (5) Completely in canal



Do all hearing aids work the same way?

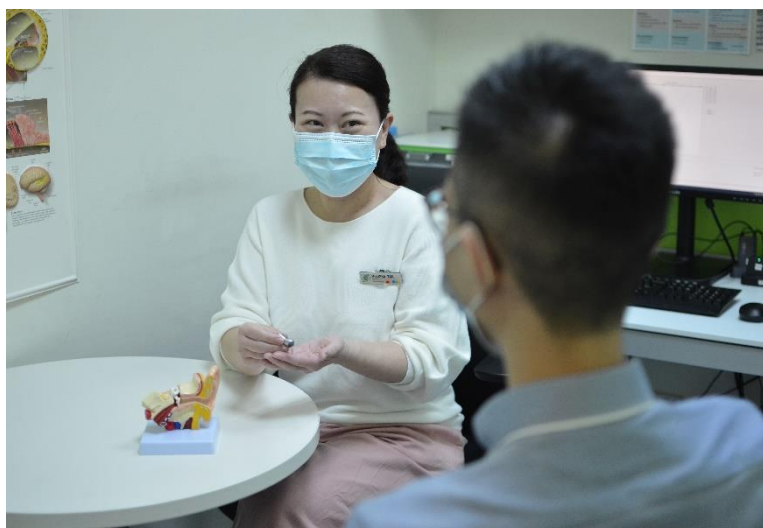
Hearing aids work differently depending on the electronics used. The two main types are analogue and digital. In today's context, digital hearing aids are preferred due to their advanced features and improved sound quality. They also provide more flexibility in hearing aid fine-tuning for personalized hearing preferences.

How do I choose a hearing aid?

Your audiologist will help you to choose a hearing aid based on your hearing needs, lifestyle and cosmetic preferences.

How long will my hearing aids last?

Your hearing aids should typically last for three to five years with proper care and maintenance. Do read and follow the instruction manual given by your audiologist for advice on hearing aid care.



Are there side effects from using hearing aids?

Your hearing aid will be carefully programmed to a safe level of maximum amplification based on your hearing test result. Even though sounds are amplified, loud sounds are amplified to a lesser degree than soft sounds.

What if I cannot afford hearing aids?

Patients who need financial assistance in hearing aid purchase will be referred to a Medical Social Worker.





Singapore
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Clinic hours

Mondays to Fridays: 9am to 5pm

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