

ENT Treatment News

☞ Summer 2014 ☞

Audiologist—Kimberly Jones, AuD, CCC/A

What is Earwax?

BROOKFIELD— Earwax is supposed to be in your ears! Its job is to trap foreign objects (dirt, dried shampoo, bugs) from entering your ear. Earwax is produced from glands in the ear canal. It can be either wet/sticky or dry/flaky. Families from Europe or Africa generally have wet earwax. Dry wax is usually found in persons from Northeastern Asia.

The skin in the ear canal is designed to work like a conveyor belt and move wax out of the ear. This process is aided by jaw movement. However, some people build up too much earwax, usually due to certain medications, stress, exercise or older age. Sometimes, sharp turns or small ear canals can

trap wax. Even wearing hearing aids can block wax from naturally coming out of the ear.

Many people try to remove the excess wax by using hairpins, keys, toothpicks or Q-tips. Please do not try to remove your earwax using these things! You may put a hole in your eardrum or push the wax deeper into your ear. When wax becomes deeply impacted, it could cause a temporary hearing loss or even make you feel dizzy. Schedule an appointment with our office if you need wax removal!

How Do You Keep Wax Out of Your Hearing Aids?

Obviously, wax is a hearing aid killer! It is especially important to

keep your ear canals free and clear of wax if at all possible. This may require frequent visits to our office for ear cleanings. If you have waxy ears, I recommend that you come in every six months for a hearing aid check. This helps us be sure that your hearing aids continue to work effectively for you.

It is up to you to clean your hearing aids daily. It is important to brush the opening where the sound comes out. If you have wet/sticky wax, it is probably easier to remove the wax in the morning after it has hardened overnight. If your hearing aid has a dome, it may need to be changed monthly to keep up with the wax build-up. Most hearing

aids also have a wax trap/filter that may need to be replaced as well.

A build-up of wax in the ear canal may also cause your hearing aid to whistle/chirp. This is called feedback. It happens when amplified sound comes out of the ear canal and reenters the hearing aid microphone. When you have a big plug of wax in the ear, the amplified sound hits the wax and comes out of the ear rather than going down to the eardrum.

Please take the time to keep your hearing aids clean! It makes a huge difference in your ability to hear well! Your friends/family will thank you for it!

Special Offer!

*Save Up To \$300 Off a Hearing Aid Purchase
With a Free Hearing Screen for New Clients!*

As a special offer to new clients, I'm giving you the opportunity to receive a 10% discount on any new hearing aid package up to a maximum of \$300 with this coupon. This offer is for new clients only and not valid with other offers. This offer expires on September 15, 2014. To arrange for your free hearing screen, please call my office today at 262-780-4444. Please mention this ad when you call and bring this coupon with you on your office visit.

Did You Know?

As much as 90% of what young children learn is attributable to the hearing of incidental conversations around them!

Do Chickens Hold the Key to a Cure for Hearing Loss?

Believe it or not, chickens have the amazing ability to restore their own hearing! Supporting cells within their ear can replace hair cells that have been damaged. Researchers are hoping they can find a way for human hearing hair cells to be restored as well. They are hoping to accomplish this within 10 years!

It's Finally Here! A Find My Hearing Aid App!

Have you ever lost your hearing aid? What a scary feeling! Many of my patients have asked, "These hearing aids are so smart. Why can't they have a locator application for when you misplace them?" With the new GN Resound LYNX made for iPhone hearing aid, you can locate your hearing aids if they are lost. As long as the batteries are good and the hearing aid is on, your iPhone will give you the location of your hearing aid. This is pretty neat stuff!

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*Information On Up To
\$300 Savings Offer Within
This Issue!*

Are You Frustrated?

So you have purchased hearing aids. They work well in a lot of situations, but there are still some difficult listening situations that are still frustrating for you! There is a new book out that might provide some relief! In *Frustrated by Hearing Loss? 5 Keys to Communication Success* author Dusty Ann Jessen provides helpful communication tips for five different listening situations: Around the House, In the Car, Dining Out, On the Phone, and Public Events (Church/Concerts/Plays/Meetings). This book gives tips for hearing successfully in these environments. It would be beneficial for your friends/family members to also read the book as there are suggestions for them to become better communicators. Always remember, communication is between two individuals. In order for it to be successful, both communication partners must work together!

I do have a copy of the book if you would like to borrow it. Just let me know!

Check out our website:
www.enttreatmentcenter.com