

# ENT Treatment News

☞ Summer 2015 ☞

Audiologist—Kimberly Jones, AuD, CCC/A—262-780-4444

## Hearing Loss is My Problem, but Also My Family's Problem

### BROOKFIELD —

“Hearing loss does not just affect an individual, but also one's family and friends,” says Michael A. Harvey, author of *Listen with the Heart: Relationships and Hearing Loss*.

People with hearing loss often tell me that their family members are upset with them because they think they are not hearing as well as they should. Family members accuse them of not having their hearing aids in. Having a hearing loss is hard work, even if a person wears hearing instruments. Remember that hearing aids are an aid to an ear with hearing loss. We are not fixing the ear. Sound that is amplified still travels through a damaged system. Sometimes a patient has poor word understanding; a hearing device cannot improve

that because we are not fixing the damage along the neural pathway. As we age, our ability to process sound diminishes. Again, that is something that a hearing instrument cannot fix. Hearing something is an easy task, like listening to a bird song. Understanding speech is a more difficult task, and gets even harder in the presence of any competing noise. Distance also affects speech understanding; high frequencies do not travel across a distance well. The high frequencies are where we get the meaning of speech because they carry the consonant information. Poor acoustics or reverberant environments make it difficult to understand speech as well. Finally, speech is always easiest to hear when you are facing

the person, so the sound is projected right to them.

Please remember that communication requires two people that are actively participating. If you have something to say to your hearing impaired family member, please think before you speak. Am I close enough to them? Is the TV blaring in the background? Are there lots of hard surfaces that will make speech bounce around? Am I trying to talk to them from one end of a large table? Am I doing the dishes and looking down while I am talking? Are there high ceilings that cause the sound to echo? Am I asking them a question from another room? Did I get their attention before I spoke? Making some simple accommodations for your hearing impaired family member will prevent a

lot of frustration. Sure it takes a little more time, but probably less time than repeating yourself over and over again.

*“Blindness cuts us off from things, but deafness cuts us off from people.”*

— Helen Keller

We don't want our family members to miss out on life's joy of connecting with people through the gift of hearing. If your loved one is wearing a hearing instrument and keeping up with regular visits to my office, they are doing their part. Please meet them half way by doing your part to help them not miss out on conversation.

### *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, 2015. 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.

*Energizer Battery Sale? There must have been a recent sale on Energizer batteries. I had three patients in the last two weeks that came in with intermittent hearing aid issues. All three of these patients were using Energizer batteries. Please remember to buy any brand BUT ENERGIZER for your hearing aids!*

### *Hearing Loss Myth*

If I had a hearing loss, my family doctor would have told me.

Many physicians don't routinely screen for hearing loss during a physical. Even if your physician does screen for hearing loss, the test is not as complete or accurate as one that is done by an Audiologist in a sound proof booth. Since many people with hearing loss hear well in quiet, it would be impossible for your physician to recognize that a hearing impairment exists.

### *Shocking Teen Hearing Loss Numbers*

Today, 1-in-6 American teens have noise-induced hearing loss from loud sounds. Examples of loud sounds would be headphones, concerts, and hair dryers. Reckless listening habits and lack of awareness have caused noise-induced hearing loss to increase 30% in the past decade alone. Today's teens are losing hearing faster than in their grandparent's generation.

---

Kimberly Jones, AuD, CCC/A Audiologist  
Ear, Nose, & Throat Treatment Center  
19475 W. North Ave., Ste. 301  
Brookfield, WI 53045



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

---

### *Why Do I Have That Annoying Whistling Sound in My Hearing Aid?*

Feedback is that annoying whistling sound that you hear when a microphone and speaker get too close together. I was just at my daughter's choir concert and whenever they set the microphone down after a solo, there was a loud whistle. This is definitely an unwanted sound for both hearing aid users and friends and family members. Feedback is normal if you cup your hand over your ear while your hearing device is in; it occurs because you're directing "reamplified" sound signals back through your hearing aid microphone. Many new hearing aids are much better at detecting sounds that are reamplified, so this is typically less of an issue with current technology. This normal feedback can also occur if you place a telephone near your ear or wear a wide brimmed hat.

Feedback can sometimes be prevented. Wax in the ear canal can cause feedback, so it is important to be seen regularly to make sure your ears are clear of wax. Also, a poorly fitting hearing aid can cause feedback. Maybe you have lost or gained weight, which has caused the hearing aid to fit improperly in your ear. It is possible that you are not inserting the aid correctly, which can also cause it to whistle. The smaller the hearing aid means the more risk of feedback, because the microphone is closer to the speaker.

Check out our website:  
[www.enttreatmentcenter.com](http://www.enttreatmentcenter.com)