

May 2018



- ✓ *Hearing in the News*
- ✓ *New Technology!*
- ✓ *Wax? What wax?*

MAY IS BETTER SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH!

A gentleman who had been having serious hearing problems finally went to see an audiologist who fitted him with a pair of hearing aids that helped him hear conversations clearly again. At his checkup, the audiologist asked, "Is your family pleased that you can hear so much better?" The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told them yet. I'm just sitting there listening to everybody. I've changed my will three times so far!"



hearing in the news >>>

In 2011, a study from Johns Hopkins linked hearing loss to cognitive decline/dementia. Multiple follow-up studies have had similar findings. A current ongoing study through the National Institute of Health is investigating whether appropriately fit hearing aids can prevent or delay cognitive decline/dementia. Half of the volunteers will receive hearing aids appropriate for their hearing loss, and the other half will undergo "watchful waiting." Results are not expected until 2020.

For more information go to
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5651440/>



Rechargeables? Bluetooth? Over The Counter? *We've got it all!*

Recent changes in hearing aids have led to more options than ever. Along with style and technology choices, we now have hearing aids that offer rechargeability (both Lithium Ion and a convertible rechargeable option) and direct connection to iPhone/iPad products and Android products (with additional accessory).

Rechargeable aids are finally here! Two manufacturers offer Lithium-Ion rechargeable batteries with approximately 24 hours of usable time following a single charge and a battery lifetime that's expected to exceed 4 years. Several other brands offer rechargeable systems that can be converted from current disposable battery operated hearing aids. We expect to see more rechargeable options in the future.

Hearing aids can now act as a high-fidelity, perfectly tuned set of wireless headphones. Several different types of hearing aids can stream audio (both phone calls and music/audio) from iPhones without any additional accessories. Android phones still require an accessory to access audio content. An app on your phone allows remote control access to your aids. Some aids have more app flexibility than others – ask us for details!

Over-The-Counter (OTC) aids are coming soon. Although they already exist as PSAPS (Personal Sound Amplifiers), they have been unregulated and some are pretty terrible at their job. The FDA is designing a new category of OTC hearing aids, intended for use by the approximately 80% of people who need a hearing aid and don't use one. OTC aids are expected to cost significantly less than typical hearing aids and fit a mild to moderate hearing loss.

Our office offers one PSAP, the Personal Listening Aid (PLAID), for people who are looking for a small boost in some environments. It is \$250 and is adjustable.

Did you know...

Sarah recently spent a glorious week in Hawaii. Alex camped in high winds and rain (but no snow) during April vacation in Assateague National Seashore. Kim is planning on commuting to work this summer on her new motorcycle. Peg recently enjoyed spending some time in one of her favorite places . . . walking the beach and Marginal Way in Ogunquit, ME.

We are now offering earwax removal in our office!



Earwax can be a problem for many people, whether or not they use hearing aids. With the shortage of primary care physicians in our area and an ENT physician who is only part time at BMH, our community has had difficulty finding timely wax-removal services. We will begin offering removal of simple wax impactions in our office as of June 1, 2018. Wax removal is within the scope of practice for audiologists, but unfortunately many health insurances do not cover the service if performed by an audiologist. Therefore, seeking wax removal here would be an out of pocket expense. We will charge \$25 per ear. Our goal is to save our patients time and travel in order to take care of this common problem!

Contact us at **802 254-3922**

www.brattleborohearing.com



130 Austine Dr., Ste 210
Brattleboro, VT 05301



Curious about this symbol?
It means an assisted listening device (ALD) is available for use in a venue. Many theaters, cinemas, and churches are equipped with these, bringing the sound directly to your ears (and in some cases, to your hearing aids!) All you have to do is ask.

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