

Audiology Now Convention Highlights

Audiology Now is the annual convention for audiologists that is hosted by the American Academy of Audiology. The latest convention was held in Chicago from April 6th to the 9th. Audiology Now is a venue that allows manufacturers to showcase their new products. In addition, the convention offers many opportunities for continuing education to those in attendance. Here are some of the new products featured at Audiology Now:



Oticon released a companion microphone to be used as an accessory to the wireless features in Streamer compatible hearing systems. The companion mic allows the hearing instrument user to hear the voice of the speaker, who wears the microphone, directly transmitted to their hearing instrument. The benefits of this device are improved hearing in challenging listening environments and reduced interference from competing noise.



Siemens released the Aquarius hearing system. The Aquarius is a waterproof hearing device that has passed extensive testing in order to be labeled "waterproof". The device comes in three technology levels, which offers users the ability to determine the right fit for their needs, lifestyle, and budget. The waterproof design provides the opportunity for the user to wear the device while exercising, swimming, doing yard work, or other physical activity without the worry of corrosion, intermittency, or failure of the device.



Phonak has released a new hearing system that is based on a new chip design called the Spice. This platform offers products in a full range from premium to economy devices. The newly designed products have a sleek design with improved features to help in challenging environments. The faster processing allows for better sound quality in the devices as well as enhanced binaural features.



Noise-Induced Hearing Loss and Children

There are approximately 12% of children with noise-induced hearing loss. Unfortunately, noise-induced hearing loss is permanent. Most people think of hearing loss from noise exposure as something only adults can have but many children are affected as well. Noise-induced hearing loss is preventable. There are many things that can damage a child's hearing such as noisy toys, MP3 players, band class, concerts and sporting events. If it sounds too loud to you, it's probably too loud for a child. There are ways to protect hearing from noise. Hearing protection in the form of earplugs or earmuffs can prevent hearing loss. Custom earplugs can also be obtained through Professional Hearing Services. Lowering the volume on electronics is also an option and volume limiting headphones are available through our office. More information can be found at www.TurnItToTheLeft.com. Another option would be removing oneself from a noisy situation. Sometimes, the best solution is simply to educate your child or grandchild about the importance of hearing and that noise-induced hearing loss is something to avoid. After all, hearing is important, at any age.





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Walk 4 Hearing 2011

Jayna David, a fourth year doctoral student, who is doing her externship with Professional Hearing Services participated in the Walk 4 Hearing. The walk took place on Sunday May 15th, at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee. The walk helped to raise awareness and helped to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss.



Tips on Q-Tips

Have you heard you should never put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear? Well, that turns out to be true! Many people insist that the only way to clean their ears is with a Q-Tip. This is a very bad idea. While most people will say they have done this many times without any problems, there are others who have damaged their ear. Unfortunately, all it takes is a slight miscalculation to damage your ear. Putting anything in your ear too far such as Q-Tips, hair pins, pens, paper clips, etc. can puncture the eardrum. The eardrum is delicate and even the slightest touch on the eardrum can rupture it. A ruptured eardrum may close by itself or sometimes surgery is required to fix it. Either way, it is usually painful and may result in a conductive or temporary hearing loss.

So how do you clean your ears? For the outside and bowl of your ear, it is sufficient to wash this with a washcloth without going into the ear canal. To clean wax from the ear canal, usually allowing water from the shower to run in and come out will do the trick. If there is a great deal of wax, it may be necessary to see a health care professional who can remove it with various methods. So the final tip on Q-Tips- don't use them and your ears will thank you.



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