





913-722-0020

8901 W. 74th Street, Suite 145, Shawnee Mission, KS 66204 5330 No. Oak Trafficway, Suite 201, Kansas City, MO 64118

www.midwest medical special ists.com



Better Hearing: Your World Reconnected.



The Audiology Department at Midwest Medical Specialists recognizes that seeking help for hearing loss and obtaining the best care for a hearing assessment is key for selecting the best hearing aid. In every case, the patient is part of the decision-making process, whether it's a matter of choosing a hearing aid or a course of treatment.

MMS audiologists keep current with the latest technology in hearing aids, treatments, testing, and surgical options. We also provide counseling and rehab services for those who have difficulty adjusting to amplification. Our goal is to provide the most accurate information to our patients and the most accurate testing results for the referring physician.

Doctors of Audiology

Jennifer Schumacher, Au.D. Erika Ward, Au.D.

ENT Physicians

Avon C. Coffman, DO Eric C. Christensen, MD Brian M. Hendricks, DO

Audiology Services

Hearing Evaluations
Assistive Listening Devices
Hearing Aids
Pediatric Audiology Services

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Treatment & Protection Plan

The First 30 Days

Warranty and Service Package

Extended Care

Verify **☑**

Your foundation for better hearing:

- 30 day adjustment
- 30 day return/exchange
- 40 complimentary batteries
- Start up kit
- Education and training
- Programming/fine tuning

Protect

Preserving your hearing wellness:

- Warranty checkpoints
- Complimentary clean & checks
- Complimentary reprogramming
- Loss and damage insurance

Maintain 🗳

Ensuring your long-term needs:

- Counseling
- Continuation of care
- Extended warranty options
- Supplies
- Accessories
- Walk-in repair clinics
- 5 year re-evaluation

Total Investment \$	
Accessories \$	
Technology \$	

Ongoing Support

Our commitment to your hearing health doesn't end once you have been fitted with a treatment plan. Ongoing support is vital to your success, and we will be there for you every step of the way. Follow-up visits will ensure your hearing devices are working properly, and we can answer any questions you have on using them. If you need counseling to help you master your new technology, we can provide that. Your complete satisfaction and success are our goal, and we'll help you achieve both.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH YOUR NEW HEARING DEVICES

During the next several days, weeks and months, you will experience sounds which may still be difficult to hear or may seem excessively loud. While this is normal for new hearing device users it is important for you to keep track of the situations that still cause frustration so your hearing professional can adjust your hearing devices' programming to best fit your hearing lifestyle. The following list of techniques and tips will help you adjust to your new technology as well as provide important things to be aware of.

Acclimation Techniques & Tips

- It will take practice to get your new hearing devices into and out of your ears comfortably and adjust them correctly.
- Remember that hearing loss impacts everyone in a communication interaction. Help others know how to communicate the best way for you.
- Be aware that your hearing loss may have caused you to withdraw from social situations. Hearing devices will make communication easier, but will not make it perfect.
- It is not necessary to hide your hearing devices. In fact, sometimes it is useful if they are visible as others will be mindful of your communication needs.
- Adjusting to hearing devices and learning how to properly use them takes time, patience and practice.
 With time, your communication skills will improve and interactions will be easier and more satisfying.

Hearing Device Dos

- Remember to turn off your hearing devices and open the battery doors at bedtime.
- Keep the battery compartment open when your hearing devices are not in use to allow moisture that may have accumulated during use to dry.
- Regularly check your hearing devices and earmolds for wax. Your earmolds can be cleaned with a damp cloth.
- Wear your hearing devices daily to allow your brain time to relearn sounds you have been missing.
- Regularly check the plastic tubing on your hearing devices for debris to ensure optimal performance.
- Attend your regularly scheduled check-up appointments. These are vital to guarantee your success with your new hearing devices.

Hearing Device Do Not's

- Do not allow your hearing devices to get wet.
 Take your devices out while bathing, sleeping or swimming.
- Do not store your batteries or hearing devices in a hot/humid place.
- Do not wear someone else's hearing devices. They have not been programmed to fit your hearing loss.
- Do not try to repair your own hearing devices or use alcohol/cleaning fluid on any parts.
- Do not compare your hearing aid experience to other people's experiences.

A Reminder...

- Hearing devices are only a part of hearing better again:
- Some sounds may be strange to you initially including your voice, footsteps, birds, running water and rustling papers.
- Other things like FM technology, speech reading and good listening skills will also benefit you.
- Hearing devices will not restore "normal" hearing:
- You may still have trouble hearing in some noisy situations.
- You may have to modify your environment for better hearing.





Hearing loss is a common problem, but it isn't always easy for a patient to identify his or her condition. Often symptoms develop so gradually they go unnoticed for a long period of time. Learning to recognize the signs and symptoms of hearing loss is key to early detection and treatment.

Some of the signs of hearing loss include:

- Feeling like others are mumbling when they speak.
- Frequently asking a speaker to repeat what they have said.
- Difficulty following conversations in environments where background noise is present.
- Turning up the volume on the television or radio.
- Avoiding social gatherings.

Persons with hearing loss often become withdrawn and isolated, some recent studies have suggested a correlation between untreated hearing loss and Alzheimers and dementia

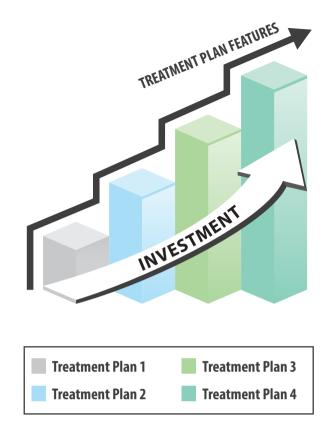
If you experience hearing loss, you are not alone. An estimated 36 million Americans suffer from hearing impairment. They can be any age; only about 1/3 of patients are older than 65. The most common causes include noise exposure and genetics. Hearing loss cannot be cured, but most cases can be successfully treated.

Hearing Health Assessment

TO BE COMPLETED BY PATIENT

Patient Name				DOB	/	/
	First	Last	MI	MM	DD	YYYY
Have you ever utilized a	hearing solution?	es No If	yes, describe your satisfaction			
Which ear do you most o	often use on the telepho	ne?	□ R □]L Both	☐ Nei	ther
Do your ears produce a si	ignificant amount of wax	? Yes No	Do you suffer from tinnitus (ri	nging in the ears))? [Yes No
Patient dexterity Go	ood 🗌 Fair 🔲 Po	oor	Patient vision Good	d Fair [Poor	
Have you been exposed	to excessive noise levels	without hearing p	rotection in any of the following :	situations?		
☐ Workplace ☐ M	ilitary	Music	Motorcycles Lawnmowe	er Other_		
Do you have a history of	Chemotherapy or Radiat	ion? Yes No	Do you have a pacemaker or o	ther implantable	device? [YesNo
Are there any specific fea	atures you are interested	in for your hearing	g solution?			
What are the top 3 enviro	onments you would like	to hear better in?				
1						
2.						
J						
NOTES:						

The Art & Science of Hearing Solutions



Finding a solution for your hearing loss is both an art and a science. The best technology in the world is useless if it doesn't improve your hearing. We strive to take that technology and apply it to your treatment plan for maximum benefit. This process involves examining your lifestyle and providing the appropriate level of counseling in addition to the best hearing devices to ensure you are able to reconnect with your world.

There are three things you should look for when selecting a solution for your hearing needs:

1. Level of technology

- What does it do for you?
- Will it perform in the situations most important to you?

2. Service package

- How long will the provider stand behind your devices for the purchase price?
- What is included for repairs? (Reprogramming, etc.)

3. Credentials

- Who are you buying the devices from?
- What is their training and experience?

Today's Hearing Devices Offer Revolutionary Advancements Designed to Satisfy

Advancements in digital hearing technology have resulted in numerous features designed to enhance your experience. Some of the more important advances to consider prior to investing in treatment for your hearing health care include:

Directional Microphones: The use of directional microphones means the hearing device can focus in on the sounds you want to hear while filtering out unwanted noise. This feature can dramatically increase the ability to understand and communicate.

Feedback/Whistling Cancellation: Hearing devices with feedback cancellation can automatically detect and eliminate feedback that causes annoying whistling sounds before it is heard.

Automatic Adjustments: As environmental conditions change, your device easily adapts to wind, crowd noise and talking on the phone with hands-free convenience.

Noise Reduction & Speech Enhancement: Advanced signal processing systems evaluate the incoming signal on your device to amplify speech sounds and reduce background noises based on frequency levels.

Customized Programming: Digital technology means your hearing health care provider can program your hearing devices to meet your unique needs in a variety of environments.

Connectivity: Bluetooth® and other wireless technologies allow your hearing devices to connect directly to your cellphone, TV, companion microphone and landline phone.

MAKING AN INFORMED BUYING DECISION

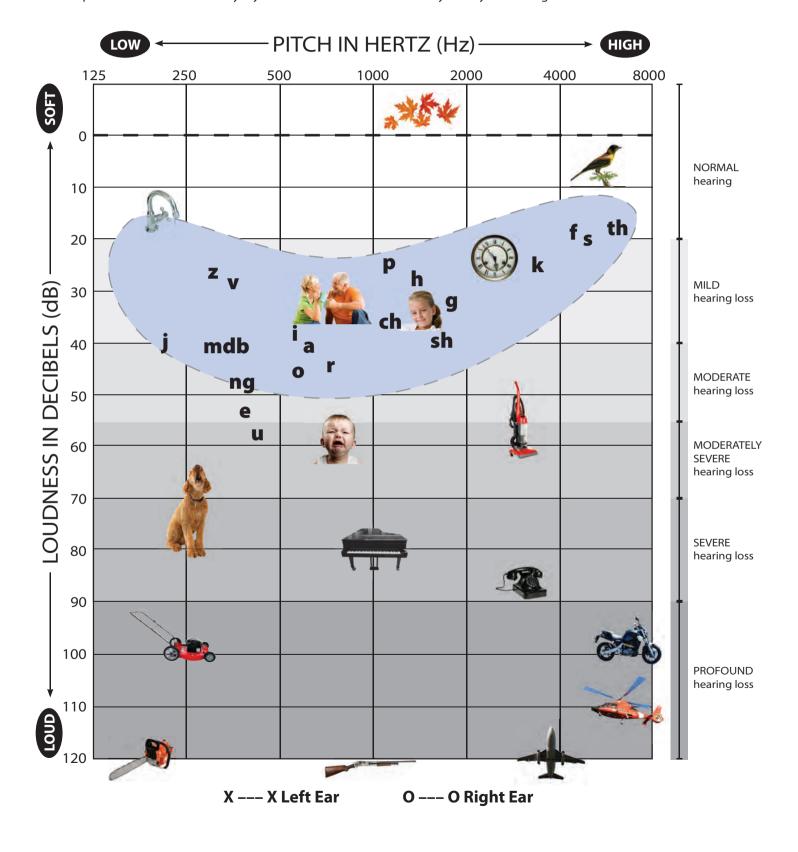
You should expect to partner with your hearing health care provider to choose the treatment plan ideally suited for your personal lifestyle, level of hearing loss, the physical characteristics of your ear canal, cosmetic preferences, manual dexterity, and budget.

TINNITUS MANAGEMENT

Hearing aids are now able to help patients who suffer with tinnitus by using a variety of sounds designed to retrain the brain's focus.

Audiogram of Familiar Sounds

An audiogram is a graph that charts the way your ears respond to specific sounds. It records the responses for the mechanical part of hearing. The blue oval shape depicts where the most common speech sounds used in everyday conversation occur. Using an "O" symbol to chart the responses of your right ear and an "X" symbol to chart the responses of your left, your hearing health care professional will be able to show you what types of sounds you may be missing.



What to Expect at Today's Appointment

Our experienced doctors of audiology are specifically trained to assess and treat all hearing related issues. The goal through our 4 step process is to identify and then treat your specific hearing related issue.

STEP 1: DISCUSS GENERAL AND MEDICAL HISTORY

In step 1, we will discover your general medical history. By learning about any medical issues you've dealt with in the past, we can understand their potential impact that it might have on your hearing ability.

STEP 2: ASSESS COMMUNICATION NEEDS

In step 2, we will discuss your specific communication needs and identify the situations where you would like to improve your hearing abilities.

STEP 3: **EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION**

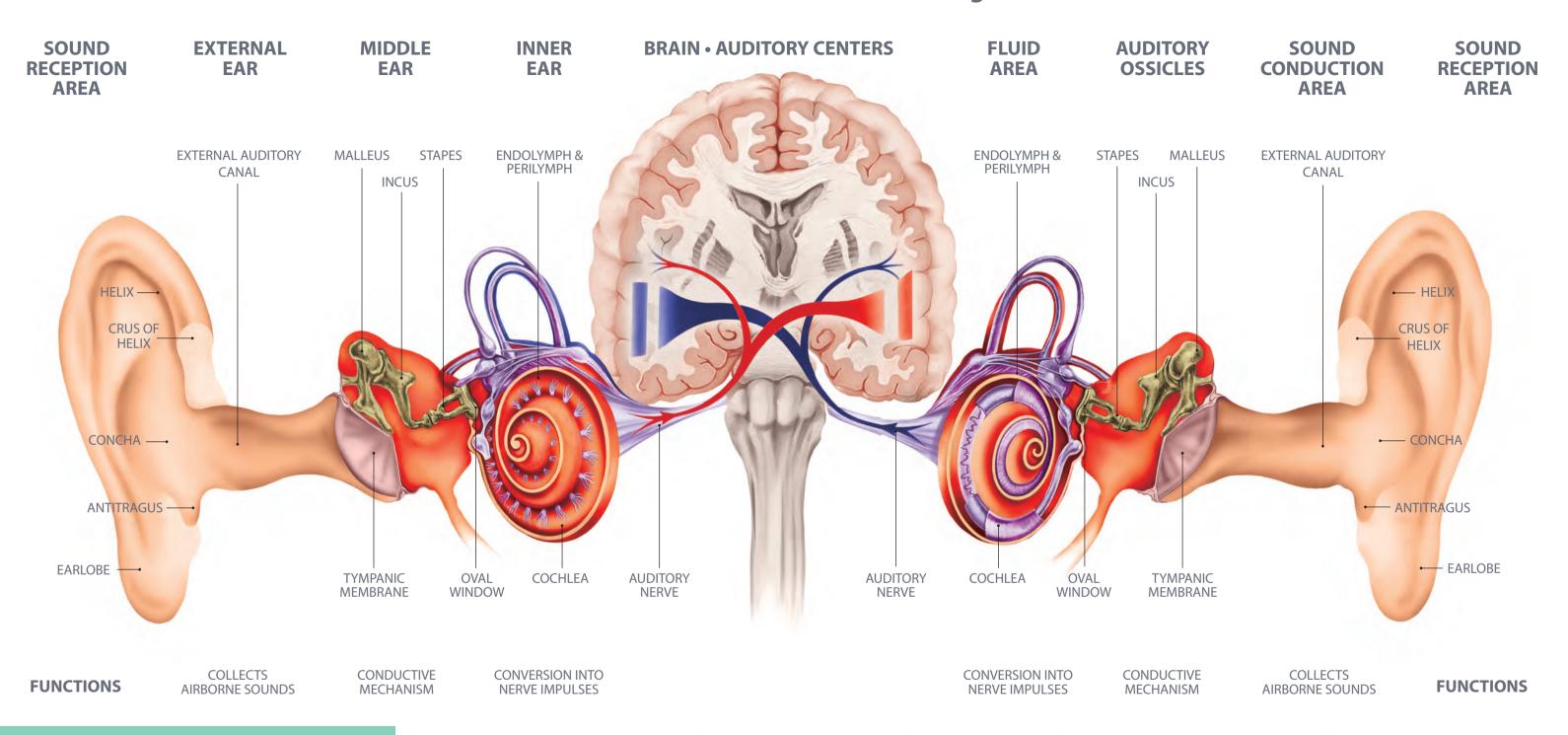
In step 3, your hearing care professional will conduct an examination of your ears and perform an audiometric test to assess your hearing ability and identify the areas which may be impacting your speech comprehension.

STEP 4: RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In step 4, we will thoroughly review your hearing test results and how they may be affecting your communication ability. Treatment solutions will be made based on your specific needs and lifestyle.



The Mechanics of Binaural Hearing



Binaural Advantages

Your auditory system was designed to perceive sound with both ears. When both ears are functioning properly, individuals experience an additive effect where the combined perception is greater than 1+1. This is why the use of two hearing devices can provide a much greater

devices) hearing system, you can expect:

- Greater ability to locat the source of sound
- Improvement in ability to understand speech i noisy environments
- Better volume and more natural hearing

The outer ear and concha collect sound waves and direct them into the external auditory canal.

The ear canal carries sound waves to the tympanic membrane, often referred to as the eardrum, causing the eardrum to vibrate.

The bones in the middle ear (malleus, incus, and stapes) receive the vibrations from the eardrum.

The bones in the middle ear amplify the vibrations and transmit them to the inner ear.

Vibrations pass through the oval window, setting the fluid inside the cochlea in motion.

Special nerve hair cells within the cochlea then turn the sound into electrical impulses.

The auditory nerve sends these electrical impulses to the brain's central auditory cortex, where they are processed as sound.