



Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids Offer a Simple Solution to a Complex Problem

Over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids, which do not require a prescription, might seem like a straightforward way to get treatment for your hearing loss. However, it's difficult to navigate through the world of hearing assistance technology without the help of a professional. One study found that 73% of participants picked the wrong aid(s) based on their audiogram. An audiologist can provide the hearing aid(s) that will serve you best and program it to fit your needs and lifestyle.

Why Did the FDA Approve Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a final rule to create a new category of over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids. Under this rule, OTC hearing aids will be available on store shelves and online as soon as mid-October. The purpose of this ruling is to improve access to hearing aid technology and reduce the cost for consumers. According to one study, almost 86% of Americans 50 and older with hearing loss do not wear hearing aids, and this is an opportunity for adults to get help sooner. Increasing the accessibility of hearing loss treatment is one of our team's top priorities! Untreated hearing loss has been linked to social isolation, cognitive difficulties and increased falls, so better access to treatment has many benefits. If OTC hearing aids are a good fit for you and might make treatment a reality, then we are available to help you on this journey. But, over-the-counter hearing aids might not be the best solution for everyone.

The following groups should always consult with a licensed hearing healthcare professional:

- Children younger than 18
- Adults with dementia or changes in cognition
- Tinnitus sufferers
- People who experience sudden hearing loss
- Having a measurable difference in hearing between your ears

An Audiologist Plays an Important Role

An audiologist does more than provide you with hearing aids. Every patient's needs are different, and our providers will customize your hearing aids to best fit your lifestyle. We'll teach you how to use your new hearing aids so you can begin this new phase of your life prepared and with confidence.

Our audiologists will also determine if your hearing loss is caused by a more serious medical condition and connect you with one of our physicians.

Additionally, our providers offer ongoing support as you navigate hearing loss treatment. Your hearing loss may change with time and require adjustments to your hearing aids. Our team can do that for you.

Bottom line: when you work with one of our audiologists, you have a partner for your hearing loss journey. You aren't in it alone.

Convenience Doesn't Always Mean Quality

Like any medical device, OTC hearing aids should be purchased with caution. If you're working without the guidance of our audiologists, you'll want to be sure that the sound isn't set too high, as doing so could further damage your hearing.

Additionally, since OTC hearing aids do not tell you about the cause of your hearing loss, it's important to visit a medical professional to ensure that your hearing loss isn't an indicator of a bigger medical condition.

Hearing Aids Are the Start of the Journey

Managing hearing loss isn't a one-time event—it's an ongoing process that includes monitoring and management over time. When you visit one of our audiologists for a fitting of prescription hearing aids, you aren't just buying a product. You're entering a partnership.

We want the best for our patients, and you deserve the level of support our team believes in. For a superior hearing experience, call to schedule an evaluation with our audiologists today. We're here to support you as you start this process.

We do not carry OTC hearing aids, but we do offer alternative options or services and care for them.

Schedule an appointment with us today to learn more.



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