



SDUAHER Public Education Series



HEARING AID CARE AND MAINTENANCE

M Abhijith
K K Julia
M Jayaram

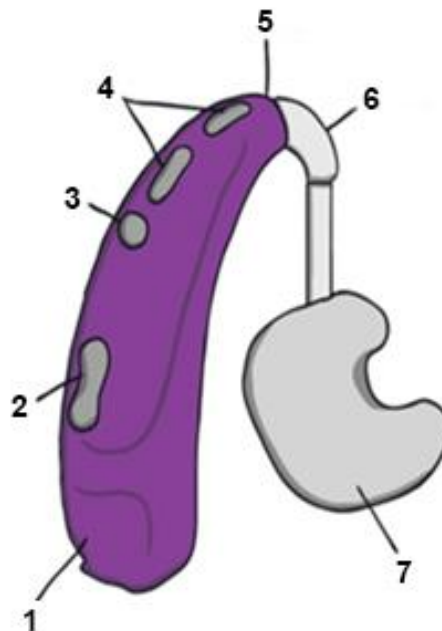
Hearing Aid

A **hearing aid** is a device designed to improve hearing by amplifying and making sound audible to a person with hearing loss.

Technology has made an impact in making our lives better. It has improved many aspects of our life easier and qualitatively better. One such device is the digital hearing aid.

Modern digital hearing aids can be programmed in such way to match the characteristics of hearing loss and lifestyle of the user. This process is called "fitting" and is performed by an audiologist.

Know your Hearing Aid



1. Battery compartment

The battery compartment houses the hearing aid battery which powers the device. This also functions as ON/OFF switch.

2. Volume control

It allows the user to decide the level at which he/she wants to hear. Output sound level (volume) can be increased or decreased according to the situation.

3. Program button

This button helps the user to change from one hearing aid program to another.

Program refers to internal protocols of the hearing which can be selected based on the environmental conditions. The present-day hearing aids provide up to four programs which help to optimise listening in different situations.

4. Microphones

Microphones pick up sounds from different directions. Multiple microphones in hearing aids help to create a more natural listening experience.

5. Receiver

The receiver converts electric signals (after processing in hearing aids) into audible acoustic signal.

6. Earhook

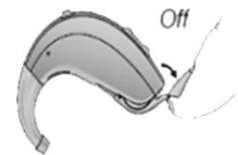
Earhook is essentially an extension of the earmold. It helps to keep the hearing aid in place over and behind the pinna.

7. Earmold

Earmolds are made as per the contours of the inside of the pinna and ear canal and thus it is user specific. It helps in conducting amplified sound from the hearing aid to the ear canal.

Basic care of hearing aids

Turn off the hearing aid when not in use and while it is housed in the hearing aid box.



Check for the working of hearing aid (squealing) before placing it on child's ear.

Check if earwax (cerumen) or any other thing has blocked the earmold/ear tip.



Change the wax guard of RIC/ITC/CIC hearing aids when it is blocked.

Gently wipe the hearing aid daily with a lint free cloth to keep the hearing aid dry and clean.





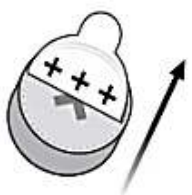
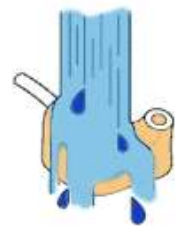
Remove the battery from the hearing aid if you use it for a day or more

Place the hearing aid in the box given by the company after you take out the aid from the ear.



Place the hearing aid in the dry aid kit at least once in a week to remove all the moisture content. Make sure that the battery door is open.

Wash the earmold once in a week with lukewarm water to keep it clean and free from wax blockage.



Peel the sticker of the hearing aid battery only if it is going to be used.

Do's and Don'ts

Do's

1. Store hearing aid in a cool and dry place.
2. Handle hearing aid gently and with care.



3. Change batteries regularly.
4. Get the hearing aid serviced at least once a year.
5. Get your hearing tested once a year.
6. Keep in touch with your audiologist.
7. Change your ear mold as often as required.



8. Keep your ears clean.



9. Handle your hearing aid with clean and dry fingers.



10. Make sure your ear mold fits well.

11. Keep yourself informed about new models of hearing aids, their features, changes in hearing aid prices, welfare schemes, etc.

12. Maintain a record of any complaints/questions you may have with regard to the hearing aid.



13. Keep a record of the name of the model, category and serial number of the hearing aid.

14. Always have spare batteries and accessories.



Don'ts

1. Do not drop, bang or jam your hearing aid on hard surfaces.
2. Do not twist/pull/knot the tubing of ear mold.

3. Do not wear your hearing aid in the rain.
4. Do not let leave the hearing aid where children and pets can reach it.
5. Do not expose the hearing aid to dust or water.
6. Do not place the hearing aid under direct sunlight.
7. Do not expose the hearing aid to extreme temperatures.
8. Do not store the hearing aid in a hot place or close to any electronic gadgets.
9. Do not attempt to repair broken/loose switches or try to resolve electronic problems by yourself.
10. Do not expose the hearing aid or ear mold to chemicals.
11. Do not leave batteries in the compartment for a long time when the hearing aid is not in use.
12. Do not leave leaking batteries in the hearing aid. As rule of thumb, change the batteries when the signal from the hearing aid sounds distorted.
13. Do not pull the ear mold out of the ear either by grasping the tubing or hearing aid.
14. Do not use the hearing aid if there is discharge from the ears.





For further details contact:

Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology

Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research

Tamaka, Kolar – 563 103

Phone No.: 9448395231 (ext – 276), 08152243240

Email id: spa@sduu.ac.in

Website: www.sduu.ac.in