

Hearing Aid Protocol

Ear & Hearing | Center for Neurosciences

Patient must have a comprehensive audiologic evaluation prior to scheduling a hearing device assessment (HDA). This can either be completed by CNS Audiology prior to the HDA appointment, or completed from a community audiologist (given that the evaluation was comprehensive and reliable).

HEARING DEVICE ASSESSMENT

30 MINS

Counseling regarding:

- Patient's hearing loss
- Candidacy criteria
- Follow-up appointments
- Aural rehabilitation
- Realistic expectations
- Inventory of patient's listening needs: COSI – assess initial ability

Device Selection, factors to consider:

- Type, degree, and configuration of hearing loss
- Word recognition scores
- Dexterity
- Cognitive status
- Evaluate external auditory canal/pinna
- Previous hearing aid experience
- Hearing aid accessories
- Patient's listening goals/environments

HEARING AID FITTING

60 MINS

2-3 weeks following hearing device assessment, as schedule permits:

- Evaluate physical fit of devices and comfort
- Verification of hearing aid programming:
 - Real-ear measures completed and hearing aids fit to appropriate evidence-based targets
- Hearing aid adjusted to comfort based on patient subjective report
- Discussion of hearing aid options: volume control, program button

Device orientation

- Overview of the parts of the hearing aid
- Practice changing/recharging batteries
- Practice insertion/removal of hearing aids
- Distinguishing right vs left hearing aid
- *always keep batteries away from pets or small children – if ingested, contact poison control immediately.*

Counseling regarding:

- Acclimatization – importance of consistent daily use
- Realistic expectations
- Never wear hearing aids while showering, sleeping, swimming, etc.

HEARING AID FOLLOW-UP #1

30 MINS

2-weeks following hearing aid fitting appointment, as schedule permits

Follow-up regarding:

- Subjective report of patient progress (assess benefit)
- Any concerns re: sound quality, volume, and/or physical fit

Counseling regarding:

- Cleaning of hearing aids
- Changing wax filters
- Adjusting to targets if programming changes made at initial fitting
- Importance of consistent daily use

Programming:

- Check data-logging
- Increase acclimatization level, per patient comfort
- Consider activating volume control/program button/tele-coil as needed

HEARING AID FOLLOW-UP #2 – end of trial period

30 MINS

4-weeks following hearing aid fitting, as schedule permits

Follow-up regarding:

- Subjective report of patient progress since previous appointment
- Any concerns re: sound quality, volume, and/or physical fit

Programming:

- Check data-logging
- Increase acclimatization level to 100% prescriptive target

Counseling regarding:

- Importance of consistent daily use at 100% prescriptive targets
- End of trial period and future appointments

Validation of hearing aids;

- Subjective: COSI – assess final ability
- Objective: Speech performance gap
 - Aided CNC 50-word list in soundfield at 60dBA

HEARING AID CHECK

30 MINS

6-months following initial hearing aid fitting, as schedule permits

Follow-up regarding:

Patient successes and challenges

Physical inspection

Clean and check all hearing aid components

Complete a listening check

Change wax filters

Change domes

Change tubing

Programming check:

Data-logging

Verify acclimatization level

Verify acoustic options

HEARING AID CHECK + ANNUAL AUDIOLOGIC EVALUATION

60 MINS

12-months following hearing aid fitting, as schedule permits

Comprehensive audiologic evaluation

Follow-up regarding:

Patient successes and challenges

Physical inspection

Clean and check all hearing aid components

Complete a listening check

Change wax filters

Change domes

Change tubing

Programming check:

Data-logging

Verify acclimatization level

Verify acoustic options

Readjust hearing aids to new audiogram

Verify settings via real-ear measures

Thank you for choosing Ear and Hearing | Center for Neurosciences.