Aural Rehabilitation

First Time Hearing Aid Users

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Making the Decision

Step 1 - Counsel patient on hearing loss
   Explain audiogram
   Word recognition scores

Step 2 - Counsel patient on what they should expect
   Benefits: Auditory stimulation, HA features
   Limitations: Not a fix

Step 3 - Explain Cost
   Trial Period
   Warranty

Step 4 - Determine Motivation
Hearing Aid Selection

Based on:
- Audiogram
- Lateralization
- Degree
- Configuration

Case History

Personal Preferences
- Cosmetic
- Financial

Lifestyle

Other:
Hearing Aid Styles

- Body Aid
- BTE Hearing Aid
- ITE Hearing Aid
- ITC Hearing Aid
- CIC Hearing Aid
- Bone Conduction
- Implantable Hearing Aid
Most Common Hearing Aid: BTE

Fits all types and levels of hearing loss

Best type of hearing aid for children

Pros: most powerful, less feedback, easy to handle, draining earwax

Cons: cosmetic concerns, wind noise
Open Fit BTE

Eliminates Occlusion Effect

Mild to moderate high frequency loss

Cosmetic appeal
ITE, ITC, CIC

**ITE & ITC:**

**Pros:** less cosmetic concern, more secure, less expensive

**Cons:** wax problems, prone to feedback

**CIC:**

**Pros:** less wind noise, less cosmetic concern, good for high frequency amplification

**Cons:** More susceptible to damage, short battery life, expensive, difficult to handle
Bone Conduction

- **Pros**: good for malformation and draining ear
- **Cons**: discomfort from pressure, poor localization
Implantable Hearing Aid

**Pros:** eliminates pressure buildup & feedback

**Cons:** requires surgery, must be removed for MRI
Body Aid: severe hearing loss

Cosmetic Concerns, inconvenience, directional hearing
Ordering the Hearing Aid

Real ear measurement

Choose color

Ear mold (if necessary)
Programming

- Plug audiogram into NOAH
- Program hearing aids
- Add settings
  - Noise
  - TV
  - Tinnitus
- Acclimatization Level
- Feedback monitor
Use and Maintenance

Explain to clients:

- How to put it on and take it off
- How to change the battery
  - What type of battery, color
- How to clean it
  - Wax guard
- How to change the setting
- How to turn it on and off

Changing Domes

Device connectivity
Do’s & Don’t’s

**Do**

- Keep the hearing aid dry
- Wear it as much as possible
- Turn off hearing aid when not in use
- Keep away from pets

**Don’t:**

- Get the hearing aid wet
- Wear when:
Counseling

Explain to clients:

What to expect

Things will sound loud

Hear things they're not used to hearing

Not a fix--will still have difficulty in some situations

Need to adjust to their own voice

Importance of auditory stimulation

Need to wear hearing aids all the time

How the hearing aid works

Where the battery, speaker, and microphone are located
Information about warranty

45-day trial period

Warranty depends on the specific hearing aid

Typically 2-3 years

Services included in warranty

repair/replacement

Hearing aid checks/follow-ups

Schedule a follow-up

First follow-up should be in about two weeks

Take note of things they may want to change about their hearing aid settings
Follow-Up

Increase acclimation level

Check use

Change programs

Modify amplification

Give them any information you may not have given them at their first appointment

Counsel them on their experience with hearing aids:

Schedule another follow up
Questions?