

Hearing Aids Join the Wonderful World of Wireless!

by Audiologist Deborah Blaylock, Au D

Everything is going wireless, so why shouldn't the hearing aid? Gone are the days of the old models that only increased the volume but did nothing to enhance clarity of speech on television and varying tones of those talking to us on the phone and minimize extraneous sounds in noisy situations. Now there's a new way to help those with hearing aids to hear more clearly and comfortably in each of these settings.

Do you ever find that you need the television volume to be turned up higher than your spouse would prefer? Or have you noticed how difficult it can be to understand accents? And what about all of the background noise when you're at a gathering? There is a surprisingly simple solution. Most hearing aids on the market now have blue-tooth capabilities and allow direct communication between the television and your hearing aids. In addition to the hearing aids, you need only a special remote, called a streamer that hangs around your neck, and a wireless

adaptor for the television. When you watch, you simply press a button on the streamer and you immediately

hear the sound in your hearing aids. Because there is no distance between the speaker and the ear, the sound is automatically processed through the hearing aids resulting in much improved clarity, and everyone else in the room can even keep the volume at whatever level they choose – even all the way off -- while you enjoy the program at the level that is right for you.



The same device that allows you to hear television better also turns your cell phone into a hands-free device! Again, you'll just need to wear the streamer and when a phone call comes in, you'll hear the ring through your hearing aids. Simply press the button on the streamer and immediately hear the person speaking in your hearing aids. You don't have to pick up the phone at all as the streamer also acts as your microphone. This system enables you to hear speech more clearly on the phone while also using the phone hands-free which is extremely convenient and more importantly, much safer when you are driving.

Ever have difficulties hearing a tour guide up ahead of you, or your spouse in a noisy restaurant? Get the remote microphone that works with the streamer and your hearing aids. It's a little lapel microphone and you can hand it to the tour guide who can attach it to their shirt. As long as the tour guide is no more than 30 feet away, you can hear their voice directly in your hearing aids. Give the lapel microphone to your spouse in a restaurant and their voice goes directly to your hearing aids and all of the noise is bypassed!

Wireless access opens up a whole new world for those with hearing aids while improving life for those around them. If this sounds like something you'd like to explore, make an appointment with me today!



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