

The Two Biggest Misconceptions about Hearing Aids

By Deborah Blaylock, Au D

As an audiologist who works to fit people with hearing aids for almost 20 years, I have heard every excuse in the book as to why a person does not get hearing aids when they are recommended. Here are two of the most common excuses and why they are not accurate.

The first is: “I’ll get dependent on them and they’ll make my hearing worse.” Hearing aids are designed so that they can’t make your hearing worse, so that’s good news. As far as becoming dependent on them, here’s something to consider. When I was in 5th grade, my Mom took me to a basketball game

and said something about one of the players, referring to his number. I asked her where she saw the numbers and she gasped, then handed me her glasses. A whole new world opened up to me! Now prior to this, I got A’s in school and had no problems, so really I didn’t have to “depend” on the glasses, but I sure wanted what they had to offer. I could see! That’s likely how you’ll feel once you start wearing hearing aids. Yes, you’ll notice your hearing loss when you don’t have them in, but you’ll be so much more comfortable and less stressed when wearing them.

The second: “I’m waiting until I

really need them.” If hearing aids have been recommended by a professional audiologist, you need them. If you wait to start wearing them, your hearing can get to a point where hearing aids won’t help anymore. It’s not just your ears that hear, it’s your brain as well, and when the brain is not hearing certain sounds it can forget them all-together, making it impossible for the brain to interpret the sounds it hears. Recent studies have shown a clear link between untreated hearing loss and dementia.

The moral of this story – wear your hearing aids. You’ll be glad you did!

Practice Adds Secondary Name

On January 1st, Thunderbird Internal Medicine changed its company name to Arizona Internal Medicine Specialists. While patients may notice the new name on receipts, bills and credit card charges, there are no immediate plans to transition to this as a working name.

So why the change? “Thunderbird Internal Medicine is a founding member of a group of medical practices called Arizona Primary Care (APC),” said Brian Riveland, MD, Chief Executive Officer. “With the many changes in the health care industry in recent years, it has become important for independent practices like ours to have strength in numbers for contracting and other business negotiations. The name change was initiated for legal purposes as part of our membership with APC.”

Thunderbird IM continues to be an independent group of physicians and allied health care professionals devoted to promoting life-long health. The practice, founded in 1976, will continue to be known as Thunderbird Internal Medicine in signage, online, in office and in print.



Thunderbird Internal Medicine – Glendale
5620 W. Thunderbird Rd #C-1, #F-1 & #G-2
Glendale, Arizona 85306

Thunderbird Internal Medicine - Phoenix
9150 W. Indian School Rd #118
Phoenix, Arizona 85037