

Hearing Notes

M I D W E S T

EAR, NOSE & THROAT

HEARING CENTER

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Stay Connected to the World of Sound - New Advances in Hearing Aids

Written by: Jennifer Dumpke - Sioux Falls Woman Magazine

Over 28 million people across the country are affected in their ability to communicate effectively because of hearing loss. While some may find a solution through medication or surgery to correct or improve hearing loss, others are forced to either live with the condition or opt for a hearing aid. Robert Froke from Midwest



ENT has specialized in hearing aid technology since 1990. During that time, he has witnessed many exciting changes to improve the lives for those who struggle with hearing loss. "Digital advances and micro-chip technology are allowing our patients to hear more clearly and naturally than ever before, especially when dealing with background noise," adds Froke.

Surprisingly enough, hearing aids have actually been around for over a century, which means its nothing new for hearing loss sufferers to be aware of this option. But in addition to digital advances, discreet cosmetic appeal and integration with smart devices to stream phone calls and music makes hearing aids more effective and appealing. "With

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Stay Connected.... continued.

the improved ease of listening and how they are able to fit much more comfortably, the aids are breaking down the barriers that the make you look old,” says Froke. “In fact, today a person with a hearing aid can look pretty tech savvy and sophisticated.”

But how do you know if you need a hearing aid? The answer may not always be loud and clear. “Anyone with a significant enough hearing loss where it adversely affects or impacts their life and those around them should look into acquiring a hearing aid,” says Froke. “Signs to look for are observing a person asking others to repeat words more often, turning up televisions and radios or withdrawing themselves from environments such as ballgames, restaurants and social situations where conversing may be difficult.”

If you or a loved one has experienced these signs, Froke advises to initially schedule an appointment to consult with a qualified hearing professional. From there, they will make the best diagnosis and recommendation. “The types of hearing devices today range from the very small and invisible, deep in the ear canal to the open ear devices with a compact casing fitting comfortably behind the ear and a thin wire or tube down into the ear canal.” Factors such as budget, lifestyle and personal preference are also taken into consideration when determining the best device.

“My personal philosophy in regard to hearing aids is if a device can help restore the vital sense of hearing, the preservation of this is priceless and critical to allow a person to maintain their independence and overall quality of life.”

Guide to navigating the holidays with hearing loss from [healthyhearing.com](http://www.healthyhearing.com)

If you have hearing loss, whether you use assistive listening devices and hearing aids or not, you know how difficult it can be to hear well in stressful, noisy or distracting situations. The holidays are filled with fun and special moments, but they can prove a bit difficult for people with hearing loss.

Here are some tips to navigate holiday situations with hearing loss: <http://www.healthyhearing.com/report/51595-Guide-to-navigating-and-thriving-during-the-holidays-with-hearing-loss>



Ear Tubes and Your Hearing

We get a lot of questions about ear tubes for adults and children, so here is some helpful information on this topic for you. Painful ear infections are a rite of passage for children – by the age of five, nearly every child has experienced at least one episode. Most ear infections either resolve on their own (viral) or are effectively treated by antibiotics (bacterial). But sometimes ear infections and/or fluid in the middle ear may become a chronic problem leading to other issues, such as hearing loss, or behavior and speech problems. In these cases, insertion of an ear tube by an otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat specialist) may be considered.

What are ear tubes? Who needs ear tubes and why? How are ear tubes inserted? What happens before and after surgery?

For more information on ear tubes go to <http://216.122.107.102/patient-health-information/ears/ear-tubes>

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Go to midwestent.com to register to win a night out for 4 at the movies (with treats) for your favorite movie buffs!

Spotlight on Melissa

Our holiday **Hearing Notes Spotlight** is on **Melissa Baker**, who became an audiologist because she loves helping people. We are so happy she is here at Midwest Ear, Nose & Throat! Let's get to know her better!

Melissa grew up in Custer and went to college at the University of South Dakota where she met her husband, Tyler Baker. She and her husband then moved to Indiana for 7 years. They had their two Hoosier kids and moved back to South Dakota. They now have 3 children, 2 boys and a girl. Ryan - 8, Sean - 5, and Sydney - 14 months. Melissa lives within a mile of her parents and also a mile from her sister and brother-in-law, who have 2 kids of their own. "We are like the show, Everybody loves Raymond. My parents show up at our house all the time and my mom and dad watch our kids, which is such a blessing. My husband and brother-in-law work together at State Farm if you need insurance! :) We love Sioux Falls and living by my family!"

Melissa's kids play basketball, swim, and are involved in their church! They are also in baseball and soccer, and love to ride horses at their great-grandpa's ranch in White River, SD. "We have so many activities going on and it seems like there is always something to celebrate in my family," she said. When Melissa gets a little down-time, She enjoys coffee, movies, eating out, and sleeping! "I do not get much sleep because of our daughter, she's a little spoiled I think!" She also likes skiing, boating, shopping, golfing, all sports, and of course the occasional spa day!

For Christmas this year, Melissa and her husband will be traveling to Rapid City, SD, where her husband's family lives. "He has a large extended family that we are excited to see for the holidays," she said.



Melissa became an audiologist because she had a lot of hearing loss in her family that was age related. She finds audiology very interesting and loves helping people. "I love working at Midwest Ear Nose and Throat and I love my patients! One of my favorite parts of working with hearing patients are the people that are so happy to hear again, either from ear treatments/ surgeries from the doctors, or hearing aids from the 4 audiologists here, even people with mild hearing losses. They know they are not hearing the way they should and want to hear the birds again, or in groups or whatever it is, and they are so happy when it is successful. I am grateful I get to experience these situations," said Melissa.

Come visit Melissa at Midwest Ear, Nose & Throat Hearing Center!

FREE HOLIDAY LUNCH

You are invited to a FREE holiday Lunch!

Join us for a holiday Lunch & Learn Event! You and a guest are invited to a complimentary luncheon and hearing wellness seminar. Dr. Ken Scott, MD, FACS, Otolologist and Director of the Midwest Ear, Nose & Throat Hearing Center, along with our highly trained audiologists, will be there to answer your questions and demonstrate the latest in high tech hearing instruments. The event is Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 11:00 am at Midwest Ear, Nose & Throat in Sioux Falls. Seating is limited. Call today to reserve your spot! 605-413-1100. *Guide-to-navigating-and-thrivingduring-the-holidays-with-hearing-loss*



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