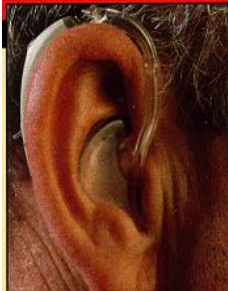
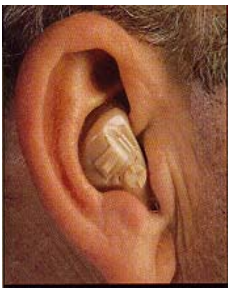


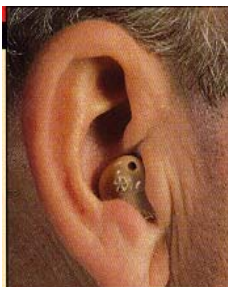
Hearing Aid Sizes



Behind The Ear (BTE) This size hearing aid tends to be the most flexible hearing aid size in respect to appropriateness for numerous people. The behind the ear hearing aid has a plastic, vinyl or silicon earpiece which is custom molded to your ear. This earpiece is the portion of the system, which delivers the amplified sound from the amplifier, microphone, circuit and receiver (behind the ear) to the ear canal. The behind the ear hearing aid offers the most volume of all hearing aid sizes, however is not used solely for people who have severe hearing loss. Behind the ear hearing aids are good for people with decreased dexterity, wax accumulation problems, steeply sloping hearing loss, very firm or rigid ear texture or moderate to severe hearing loss. Behind the ear hearing aids take larger batteries, which will need to be replaced every 3-4 weeks (depending on use and size).

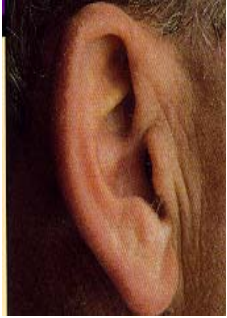


In the Ear (ITE) This hearing aid size sits in the bowl (concha) of your ear. All the components of the hearing aid are housed within the confines of your ear. This hearing aid size is very flexible as well in respect to hearing loss appropriateness. This aid is most suitable for individuals with mild to severe hearing loss, with fairly good dexterity. Due to the size of the hearing aid and the proximity of the microphone to the receiver, sometimes talking on the phone with the instrument on can be a challenge. However, this obstacle can generally be overcome with specialized technology. This hearing aid takes a battery, which is either the same, size as the BTE or slightly smaller. The battery will last approximately 1-2 weeks.



In the Canal (ITC) This size hearing aid generally appeals to those individuals who would like a smaller aid, but for some reason are not a candidate for the CIC size. The canal aid covers the entrance to the ear canal and should not be visible when viewed from the front. The canal size aid is generally limited to those individuals with hearing loss up to moderately severe. The canal aid, due to its size is more difficult to handle than the ITE, however,

easier than the CIC. This hearing aid takes batteries, which are either the same size as the ITE or slightly smaller, and they will need to be replaced every 1-2 weeks.



Completely In The Canal (CIC) This size hearing aid generally appeals to those individuals who do not want anyone to know they have a hearing aid. It is the most cosmetically appealing hearing aid and is currently the smallest aid available. The CIC hearing aid is designed to fit relatively deeply into the ear canal. Because the majority of the hearing aid is in the ear canal, this aid is nearly invisible. CIC hearing aids are not appropriate for everyone, or every hearing loss. If you are diabetic, have poor circulation or kidney disease, are prone to outer ear infections or fungus, have poor dexterity, pronounced jaw (mandibular) movement or severe hearing loss, this hearing aid size may not be appropriate for you. The CIC hearing aid takes a very small battery, which will need to be replaced approximately once every 5-7 days.

The information presented above is a generalization. There are more factors involved in selecting a hearing aid size than those listed, however, the information should assist you in making your decision about hearing aid size. When shopping for a hearing aid, although cosmetic appeal is a factor, try to remember that hearing better is the primary goal to wearing a hearing aid. Your hearing health care provider will go over all the options available for your loss and he/she will help you make your decision about an appropriate size instrument for your loss, lifestyle and general health.