

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5 N E W S L E T T E R

Phone Us or Visit Online

SAN LEANDRO
(510) 483-5422

LAFAYETTE
(925) 385-0735

www.futurehearingnow.com

Like Us On 

Follow Us On 



410 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

continued from front...

they want to communicate.

Basically if I am responsible for communicating about my hearing loss, I have never had a problem with frustration from my partner. But then, communication is the key to all relationships, isn't it?"

I have been thinking about this answer during this last week, and I have remembered a number of stories, where the spouses or significant others of patients exhibit no patience with the hearing impaired person whatsoever! I won't go into the specifics of those stories here, but it does mean that I should go back and revise my answer. It also begs a question (or two or three). Are you being responsible for communicating about what you need as a hearing impaired

person? Are you reminding people to not talk to you from the other room or with their back turned? Are you asking people to let you choose the seat you can best hear from? Are you reminding people that hearing devices do not restore normal hearing, and that you will never hear exactly the same as your "normal hearing" partner? If you are doing all of these things, and being responsible for communicating about your hearing issues, and your significant other is still not being supportive, then frankly perhaps some kind of relationship counseling is in order.

Since we are all imperfect, don't we all need to be patient with others' imperfections? Doesn't hearing loss qualify as something that a loved one should be supportive and patient with? I fervently believe that the answer to that question is a resounding YES!

Find answers to your questions on our website: www.futurehearingnow.com



'Hear Ye, Here Ye'

FUTURE HEARING Newsletter

In Your Ears or In a Case

Most of you know that I have a rule. Hearing aids should be in your ears, or in a case. Period. Once I started this rule five years ago, I have never had a patient lose a hearing aid if they followed it religiously. Recently there was an exception. A patient lost the whole case with the hearing aids in it, but that's been the only time. For all other losses, and I get at least one a month, the person has put the hearing aid down on a table, or in a pocket, or was holding it in their lap and forgot it, and so on and so forth.

Recently I was confronted with a problem. I had been exercising (competitive table tennis), and was sitting outside at a picnic table, talking to a friend. My left hearing aid ran out of power. If my aid has no power, it's an earplug and I hear worse, so I had to remove it. And here I was confronted with the classic question. What do I do with the aid? I don't have my case with me, since I was wearing workout clothes, I don't want to put it in my pocket because I KNOW that's a recipe for disaster, and I don't want to hold it in my hand for an extended period of time (one patient did that at the movies, and wound up putting it in her mouth thinking it was a Raisinette)! So what did I do? I put it on the table, very prominently next to my table tennis paddle, figuring that I'd see it when I went to pick up my paddle to leave.

What happened? You guessed it. I forgot all about the hearing aid. When we went to leave I grabbed my paddle and walked to my car. Luckily at that point I remembered

the aid and went back to the picnic table. And of course, no hearing aid. I had swept it off the table with the paddle as I was picking it up! It could be anywhere in a 10 foot circle if I had swiped it right on the button. So I had to get down on my hands and knees, and search and feel through the gravel and grass to find this tiny little blue hearing aid, all the while cursing myself for doing the exact thing I lecture people against doing every day!

Luckily, after about five minutes of searching I found it, smushed into the grass and gravel because I had also stepped on it! And, even more lucky, it still worked!

So please let my experience be yet another lesson for us all. "IN YOUR EARS, OR IN A CASE"!

CaptionCall

Still having trouble with the phone? There is now a Federal program that will provide a free CaptionCall telephone that will show the words to your telephone calls while you are on the phone. If you are wearing hearing devices from our office, and would like one of these phones, just let us know and we will fax in a form for you. You will receive a call from them and they will send an installer to your house and show you how to use it. You just need a phone line and an internet connection. I got one of these for my mom and it is quite impressive. *And did I mention it was free?*

Relationships with the Hearing Impaired

Some of you may be familiar with a website called Quora.com. It is a site where people can ask questions, and experts in the field answer them. Sometimes they send me questions that need to be answered. Last week I was asked to answer this question:

How difficult can it be for a hearing person to have a serious/long-term relationship with a hard of hearing person? Realistically speaking, what are the chances of that kind of relationship dissolving due to frustrations in dealing with a hearing disability.

And this was my response:

"I have severe hearing loss. Without my aids everyone

mumbles. I have had two long term relationships during this time, and have found that with my normal hearing significant others were more than happy to do their best to understand my disability. They let me pick the seat in restaurants that I think I can hear best from. They learn to look at me when they talk. They learn NOT to whisper to me! I feel that if I am honest and truthful about my disability and what I need, they are more than willing to do their part to help. Now of course they might forget and need a reminder now and then, but this is expected. After all, it's an invisible disability. I also let them know when I'm taking my aids out, so they can get my attention in other ways if

continued on back...

Hope you're having a great summer! ~ Greg