

What happens during the hearing instrument fitting?

If the hearing test indicates that you would benefit from the use of hearing instruments, the next step is to begin the fitting process. Choosing the most appropriate instrument(s) is largely based on your type and degree of loss.

You will have the opportunity to listen to various types of technology available. If hearing instruments are indicated, then your ear(s) will be measured to customize the fit to your particular ear shape.

Your audiologist will make recommendations, and your personal preferences are important to the process. Depending on the product chosen, you may be fit at the time of this visit, or you may return at a later date to receive your new hearing instruments, along with complete instructions on how to care for them. Your audiologist will schedule weekly follow-up visits to be sure they are working properly for you and that you thoroughly understand the benefits you may expect. Small concerns have simple answers and should be addressed immediately.

If properly cared for, most hearing instruments will last approximately three to five years. Just like eyeglasses, hearing instruments are generally replaced for an updated prescription, as your hearing health needs can change over the years. We encourage routine visits for complimentary cleaning and service to your hearing instruments with the purchase of your batteries. This also allows you time to express any concerns you might have. We also encourage you to have your hearing instruments serviced by the manufacturer annually. We look forward to working with you.

TOTAL HEARING CARE OF DALLAS

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***What Can I
Expect at the
Time of My
Visit?***

What does a hearing evaluation involve?

Your audiologist at Total Hearing Care will take a detailed case history regarding your hearing health. We may ask such questions as, "How long have you been experiencing difficulty with your hearing?" or "What is your most difficult listening environment?" Your answers, as well as any additional details, will provide valuable background information.

A physical examination of your ear will assess the general condition of your ear canal and eardrum. Video Otoscopy will allow you to see your own ear drum on a color TV monitor. Next, we will conduct a diagnostic hearing evaluation. You will listen to various tones, through insert earphones in a sound proof booth. We will assess the softest levels that you can hear. You will be tested on how clearly you understand and recognize words. We will also establish most comfortable and uncomfortable volume and listening levels.

After the testing is complete, your audiologist will review the results with you. If a medical condition is discovered or suspected, we will refer you to a medical doctor for treatment or consultation. If the test results indicate you would benefit from the use of hearing instruments, we will discuss various options most appropriate for your hearing needs and provide you with a listening demonstration.

What size hearing instruments are available?

Please keep in mind that there is not one particular hearing instrument or brand that will work for all types and ranges of hearing loss. What may work best for a friend of yours may not be best for you. The type selected will depend on your individual hearing loss, physical characteristics of your ear canal, and your lifestyle.

Essentially, there are five basic styles of hearing instruments:

- **Behind-The-Ear (BTE)** fits neatly behind the ear and is connected to an ear mold in the ear by a short plastic tube. This hearing instrument is easy to manipulate and it is generally used for a variety of hearing losses. This style can provide the most power and flexibility of the devices.
- **Receiver in the Ear (RITE) or Open Fit BTE** is a miniaturized BTE device that sits on top of the ear with a wire or slim tube fitting close to the head and a small dome that slides into the entrance of the ear canal. These are often as invisible as the CIC instruments.
- **Completely-In-The-Canal (CIC)** fits entirely in the ear canal. Cosmetically, this instrument is typically the least visible. However, it is not suitable for all types and degrees of hearing loss.
- **In-The-Canal (ITC) and In-The-Ear (ITE)** fit within the canal portion of the ear. The ITE extends into the outer part of the ear, completely filling the ear, while the ITC only fills the opening of the outer ear canal.
- **Extended Wear** devices stay in the ear canal 24/7. There are no batteries to change. Whether or not one can wear this device is dependent on the size of the ear and the hearing loss.

What type of technology is available?

Total Hearing Care is committed to providing you with the most technologically advanced products in the world, developed by the top manufacturers in research and development.

Digital instruments have a computer chip in them, which allows sound to be processed at least 150 million times per second, and provides the listener with clear and distinct speech sounds. The newest digital devices include products designed to be trendy and virtually invisible; assist speech understanding in the presence of background noise; provide excellent fidelity and noise reduction; and adjust automatically to environmental changes in sound. All of our digital devices are programmed by computer for your specific needs.

We offer five different levels of technology to fit your listening needs and budget. As you go up in technology, the processing for background noise, music, and your own voice improves. Premium technology also gives our audiologists the most adjustment ability within the programmable software. Our practice works with over 10 different hearing instrument manufacturers, and we choose the best quality products within each of our technology tiers to give you the sound that you want and expect. (Basic Digital \$1200-\$2500 per ear, and Advanced/Premium Digital \$2200-\$4000 per ear).