



Mrs. Sandra R. Cook

Ask Sandra

*Mrs. Sandra R. Cook,
Licensed Clinical Audiologist*

Get Answers

Q Lately I noticed my father becoming increasingly quiet, especially during family get-togethers. He doesn't participate anymore the way he used to. My mom suspects it's his hearing. Is there anything we can do to help?

A There sure is. Your dad is very fortunate to have people around him who love him enough to recognize that a problem exists. Recognition is the first step to treating hearing loss. The second is having his hearing tested by an audiologist. An audiologist will determine what is the best course of action. The signs of hearing loss, such as with your dad's, include emotional withdrawal and social isolation. They

also include frustration, limitation of activities, reduced work productivity, whether that be on the job or at home, and a general lack of interest and participation in everyday life. What you can do is bring your dad in for a hearing test. It takes less than 45 minutes. More importantly, if your dad needs amplification for his hearing loss, there are many different options in hearing aid styles and technologies for him to choose from at an affordable range of prices.

Q When we go to church, many times my mother's hearing aid whistles. She doesn't hear it, but it embarrasses her when people tell her it's whistling. Can we do anything about it because she really needs the hearing aid to hear the preacher and to hear us at home.

A Whistling hearing aids have been a problem for many years, but recently new digital hearing aids have almost completely eliminated whistling. Engineers call whistling, acoustic feedback, and they have designed feedback cancellation circuitry that works much like noise cancellation headphones to cancel this annoying sound. With older hearing aids there are adjustments that can be made that may reduce this annoying whistling. So see your audiologist to explore the solution to your mother's whistling hearing aids.

Your questions are very important to me, so please don't hesitate to contact me.



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