

Maze Hearing and Balance, LLC

Locally Owned and Operated

ASK THE AUDIOLOGIST:

By Heather Smith, Doctor of Audiology

Last time, I discussed Tinnitus, which is ringing, buzzing or other noises heard in the ears or head. Today, I would like to discuss briefly the Neuromonics Oasis Tinnitus Treatment.



QUESTION: What is the Neuromonics Tinnitus Treatment and how does it work?

ANSWER: Neuromonics Tinnitus Treatment involves the use of the Oasis device (pictured) to deliver precisely designed music to your ears. The music is matched to your hearing loss and tinnitus and the device is worn for 2 to 4 hours daily.

QUESTION: How does it work?

ANSWER: The acoustic signal that you hear targets pathways in the brain to reprogram them and filter out the sound of your tinnitus.

QUESTION: Is there immediate relief from the tinnitus?

ANSWER: The process is completed in two stages and takes from 6 to 8 months. Stage one offers some immediate relief of the tinnitus through masking, or covering it up, as well as giving the patient a feeling of control over the tinnitus. Stage two continues to offer this masking while intermittently exposing the person to their tinnitus. This helps decrease the brain's sensitivity to the tinnitus. It is a gradual process which offers long term benefit.

QUESTION: Is this device for everyone who suffers from tinnitus?

ANSWER: No. The first step in any treatment is to schedule a tinnitus evaluation. Following this, suitability for the Neuromonics treatment is determined. It is not for those who are not overly bothered by their tinnitus, or those with other overlying factors that would not allow for benefit from the device.

QUESTION: Does it really work?

ANSWER: Independent studies have shown that 95% of users have experienced at least a 40% reduction in tinnitus disturbance, with an average change of 76%. 97% of patients reported relief from their tinnitus, and 94% had improved ability to fall asleep, a sense of control of tinnitus and improved ability to relax.



For more information, contact Dr. Smith at 592-1001

Visit my website at www.Mazehearing.com to take the Tinnitus Handicap Inventory and see if tinnitus is affecting your everyday life. If you would like to set up a tinnitus evaluation, please contact Dr. Heather Smith at 592-1001 to schedule.

You will need a referral from your family physician for insurance purposes.

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