

Maze Hearing and Balance, LLC

Locally Owned and Operated

ASK THE AUDIOLOGIST:

By Heather Smith, Doctor of Audiology

Help for single sided deafness



QUESTION: What is single sided deafness?

ANSWER: Single sided deafness refers to a condition where a person is deaf, or has no usable hearing remaining in one ear (unaidable ear).

QUESTION: What about the other ear?

ANSWER: Some people have normal hearing in the good ear, others may have a mild, moderate or severe loss in the better ear.

QUESTION: What can be done to help with this type of hearing loss?

ANSWER: First we will need to test your hearing and discuss what may be causing the loss. Sometimes there is a medical concern and this needs to be checked out further. We expect that ears exposed to the same aging process and noise should be similar. Once a medical problem is ruled out the CROS (contralateral routing of the signal) hearing aid is the easiest way to treat for this type of hearing loss. This aid transfers sound from the side of the head with the unaidable ear to a hearing aid in the better ear.

QUESTION: So I would have to wear two hearing aids?

ANSWER: Yes, two hearing aids, one to transfer the sound from the bad ear and one to pick up the sound and send it into the good ear.

QUESTION: Do you actually hear in the bad ear?

ANSWER: No, sound is simply transferred from that side of the head to the good ear, so that you can hear people or sounds on the unaidable side of the head.

QUESTION: Why would someone need to hear from the bad ear side?

ANSWER: Missing speech and noise from one side of the head interferes with an individual's hearing and understanding. It makes it difficult to hear when someone talks to you on that side and you will probably have to turn your head to hear them. It also makes it difficult to tell which direction sound is coming from.

QUESTION: Do you have to wear a wire around your head to use a CROS hearing aid?

ANSWER: No, the audio signal from the unaidable ear is sent wirelessly, in real time, from the transmitter to the receiver hearing instrument in the better ear. Robust wireless transmission ensures interference free hearing.



For more information or to schedule a hearing test, call 592-1001.

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

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