

Do Hearing Aids Ever Work?

By Crystal Chalmers, Au.D.

Do you have questions similar to these?

“Dr. Chalmers, I've been after my husband for some time now to get his hearing tested and to try hearing aids. He refuses to do so because we have friends who have gone that route, and they complain all the time about how their hearing aids don't help.

Do hearing aids ever work? Or are my husband and I doomed to have poor verbal communication for the rest of our lives together?”

Your questions are not at all uncommon, as I see many people who have come to my practice — reluctantly — with the same attitude about hearing aids: that is, “They don't work!”

I'll provide you with the answers to these questions in two versions: The short version is, “Yes! Hearing aids *can* and *do* work.”

The longer version is that though not all hearing aids are created equally, and some technology brands are much better than others, the successful fitting of hearing aids is far more reliant on the professional who does the fitting based upon their proper and regular use of state-of-the-art diagnostic testing equipment.

Sadly this rarely happens, as very few hearing aid dispensers in the United States (including those audiologists who dispense hearing aids) have invested in this testing equipment. Worse, of those who do have the equipment, a small fraction actually uses it! That is, in a

word, deplorable.

What this means to the patient/consumer is that the “professional” who does not use this equipment is simply guessing about the status of the patient's hearing. The result is that patients fit this way are rarely successful in their ability to hear — and where do they place the blame? The hearing aids!

Let me ask you this: If you had hip-replacement surgery and afterward were in terrible pain and could not walk, would you blame the prosthetic?

If you had hired a plumber to fix a drip in your kitchen sink, and that evening you turned on the faucet and a geyser of water erupted, would you blame the pipes?

If you had the brakes replaced on your car, and on your way home from the mechanic the brakes failed and it was all you could do to stop the car and avert an accident, would you blame the brake pads?

Of course your displeasure in any of the above scenarios would be directed at the person who performed the service.

Then why does everyone blame the hearing aids!

It shouldn't be that way, and I'm happy and proud to say that this simply does not occur with my patients.

If you would like to discover this difference for yourself, simply call my office toll-free at 1 (888) 844-7024 and tell us, “I want to re-gain my gift of hearing!” to be scheduled for a **free hour-long office visit, which includes a consultation, an examination of your ears,**

a hearing screening, and a review of the results...*Because hearing is a wonderful gift!*”

About the writer: Crystal Chalmers, Au.D., is a doctor of audiology, the owner of AudigyCertified™ North State Audiological Services in Chico, CA, and a member of AudigyGroup, the nation’s largest member-owned association of independent hearing care professionals.

Since 2006, AudigyGroup has interviewed thousands of audiologists in the United States, yet has selected less than 300 to be members in this elite association. Dr. Chalmers is the only AudigyGroup professional in the entire northeastern part of California. AudigyCertified™ is a trademark of AudigyGroup, LLC.

To learn more about Dr. Chalmers, her practice, and AudigyGroup, visit online at www.nsaudiology.com or call toll free at 1 (888) 844-7024