

HEARING EVALUATION SERVICES
OF BUFFALO, INC.



Sound Sense[®]

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Check out our new website!

We have changed the look, layout, and content of our website to provide all the information that you are looking for.

Visit us at:

www.hearingevaluationservices.com



Do You Feel Dizzy or Off-Balance? We Can Help!

- Over 90 million Americans, age 17 years and older, have experienced a dizziness or balance problem.
- 20 million Americans visit the emergency room each year for fall related injuries.
- Balance-related falls account for more than half of the accidental deaths in the elderly.
- According to the National Institute of Health, 90% of all causes of dizziness can be identified by a thorough evaluation.
- Nearly 90% of balance disorders, once diagnosed, can be treated successfully.



The ability to maintain balance depends on information that the brain receives from three different sources—the eyes, the muscles and joints, and the vestibular organs in the inner ears. The inner ear has a hearing (auditory) component and a balance (vestibular) component. All three of the sources for maintaining balance send information in the form of nerve impulses from sensory receptors, which are special nerve endings, to your brain.

Audiologists are the health care specialists specifically trained to test the vestibular portion of the balance system. At Hearing Evaluation Services, we have audiologists who have advanced training in assessing and diag-

osing balance disorders associated with the vestibular system. We also have state-of-the-art test equipment that has only recently become available for use. There are several tests that we may use to assess your vestibular system and, depending on your symptoms, the audiologist will determine which tests will best help identify any vestibular weaknesses. All the tests are non-invasive and relatively simple.

If it is determined that your dizziness or imbalance is caused by your vestibular system, the most common treatment is physical therapy designed specifically to retrain your brain to compensate for the vestibular weakness.

Remember, you DO NOT have to live with dizziness!

Please call our office if you have vertigo (spinning sensation), dizziness, imbalance, "drunk" feeling, or light-headedness. You may benefit from vestibular testing and follow-up treatment.

Please visit our new website www.hearingevaluationservices.com for more information about the anatomy and physiology of the vestibular system,

(Continued on page 2)

Are You Dizzy? (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

common vestibular problems and treatments, and descriptions of vestibular test methods.

Dizziness and imbalance are serious problems that many people experience and should not be ignored. In addition to the injuries that dizziness and imbalance can cause, they also have been shown to negatively impact quality of life. We are committed to helping people with dizziness live a safe and dizzy-free life and minimize the debilitating effects of dizziness.



Photo of the state-of-the-art test equipment used for assessing dizziness and balance problems.

HES Comings & Goings

Going—After 12 wonderful months with us, Michelle Garrett has completed her doctoral clinical residency with Hearing Evaluation Services and will graduate in May from West Virginia University with her Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree. Michelle is moving back to West Virginia where her husband is a West Virginia State Trooper. In June, Michelle will begin working in northern Virginia as an audiologist at a non-profit speech and hearing clinic. We are sad to see Michelle go, however we wish her the best of luck in her future career. She has been a wonderful addition to our staff and we will miss her.

Coming—On another note, we are pleased to introduce a new addition to the Hearing Evaluation Services team, Ashley Eisen. Ashley is completing her clinical training to earn her Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree from the University at Buffalo. Ashley currently holds a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Audiology and has three years of educational and clinical training in all areas of audiology. Over the next 12 months she will complete her doctoral clinical residency at Hearing Evaluation Services, seeing both adults and children for hearing and balance evaluations, hearing aid evaluations, fittings, and follow-up. Welcome Ashley.

Protect Your Hearing Aid this Summer

Did you know that moisture, humidity and perspiration can cause your hearing aid to malfunction? Moisture is one of the leading causes of hearing aid failure. Fortunately, there are dehumidifier systems that will help keep your hearing aid working to the best of its ability.

One very popular choice is the Dry and Store “Global” unit. It combines heat, clean dry air, a germicidal lamp for sanitizing, and a specially designed desiccant to absorb the moisture that is released from the hearing device and costs \$120. Each Dry and Store unit comes with one Dri-Brick desiccant block. Generally the Dri-Brick should be replaced once a month during the summer months and approximately every two months during other seasons. Another

model called the Zephyr offers all the features of the Global unit except it does not have the germicidal UV light. The cost of the Zephyr is \$80. These units also dry the water content of ear-wax making it easier to remove through normal care of your hearing aid.

There is also a third economical option called a Dry-Aid jar. The hearing aids are put in a glass jar that contains desiccant beads, which passively absorb moisture from the hearing aids. The beads can be “recharged” by putting them in the microwave. The cost is \$15 for a small Dry-Aid jar, and \$20 for a large Dry-Aid jar.

Consider using one of these systems to improve the performance and lessen the potential repairs of your hearing aids this summer.

Hearing Evaluation Services Presents Research at National Audiology Conference

With more than 10,000 audiologists as members, the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) is the world's largest professional audiology organization. Several of our audiologists attended this year's annual AAA conference, which drew more than 7000 audiologists from around the world.

For the second straight year, we are proud to report that one of our audiologists, Dr. Jill Bernstein, not only attended the conference but also presented results from her research study during a poster session. Dr. Bernstein presented vestibular (balance) testing results from a group of patients diagnosed with a rare brain disorder called a Chiari type I malformation. This is a malformation of the base of

the skull and upper spinal area that causes the cerebellum (a brain structure involved in balance) to protrude downward into the cervical spinal tract. Patients with Chiari type I malformations frequently experience headaches, dizziness, ataxia, head and neck pain, muscle weakness, and balance problems. Hearing Evaluation Services has had the opportunity to examine almost 10 patients with this rare disorder.



The photo is of Dr. Bernstein explaining the test findings to Dr. Richard Gans, PhD, founder of the preeminent American Institute of Balance in Florida, and an internationally recognized vestibular expert who recently served as president of the AAA.

Cell Phone Solutions for Hearing Aids

Anyone who has worn a hearing aid knows that sometimes hearing aids and telephones don't work well together. Many people get too much whistling or "feedback" when they put a phone up to their hearing aid. To avoid this, many people will add a feature onto their hearing aid called a telecoil. When they turn on the telecoil, the hearing aid microphone is turned off, and the aid will only amplify sound from the telephone eliminating feedback.

Telecoils, along with amplified telephones, are good solutions for home telephone use. But with the increased popularity of cell phones, the feedback problem has returned. Until recently, cell phones were not required to be telecoil compatible. However, if you recently purchased your cell phone, it may have come with a telecoil rating of T3 or T4. If your cell phone is rated T3 or T4 that means it can be used with your telecoil.

But don't despair! Even if your cell phone is not telecoil compatible, or you want to use your cell phone in a "hands-free" setting, there is still a solution for you. The most common device available is for use with behind-the-ear hearing aids. A silhouette (see photo to right) sits on your ear next to

your hearing aid and plugs into your cell phone. The silhouette converts the sound from the telephone into sound that your telecoil can recognize and amplify.

If you recently purchased Epoq hearing aids, you are in the unique position to set up your hearing aids to wirelessly communicate with your Bluetooth cell or Bluetooth home phone. Now, with the use of a Streamer (see photo below) you can hear your phone call directly through both hearing aids for optimal speech understanding.

If you want to learn what cell phone options are available to you, please feel free to call our office.

Behind-the-ear telecoil silhouette



Epoq hearing aids and Streamer



**“HEAR THE DIFFERENCE”
HEARING EVALUATION
SERVICES OF BUFFALO, INC.**

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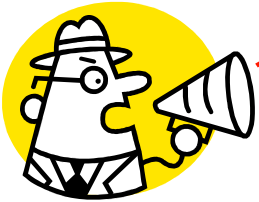
Spring Edition



NEW!!! Finance Your New Hearing Aids Interest Free!

Have you been postponing getting new hearing aids while you save up for them? Do you want better hearing aids but find the up-front cost difficult to budget for?

We are proud to announce that Hearing evaluation Services is now partnering with Citibank as they launch a brand new program that offers interest free financing for hearing aid purchases.

 It is very easy to qualify for this program. When you come in for your hearing aid evaluation appointment, we will simply call Citibank and request authorization for financing. You will have 12 months to pay off your hearing aids, **interest free.**

With the rate at which hearing aid technology improves, it may be time for you to consider new hearing aids. We can now help relieve the up-front expense of more modern hearing aid technology so that all you have to think about is hearing better.

For more information or to schedule a hearing aid evaluation appointment, please call our Amherst or Orchard Park office.

