

What's New at McNeill Audiology

Fourteenth Edition | Summer 2013

Technology Update

written by Kristina Plewes, M.Sc. Aud. (C) Registered Audiologist

Moxi Kiss

Would you like to be kissed? Unitron has recently released the newest member to its 'receiver in the canal' (or RIC) family called the **Moxi Kiss**. A Receiver In the Canal hearing aid was originally designed for those who have normal to near normal low frequency hearing with greater hearing loss in the mid to high frequency ranges. However, with ever changing improvements in hearing aid technology they can now be customized for more significant hearing losses. The **Moxi Kiss** has a sleek new behind the ear design with built in microphones to protect against moisture and the sound of hair rubbing on the microphones.

The **Moxi Kiss** includes many of the same features as the rest of the Moxi products including SmartFocus technology to provide improved speech understanding in noise, up to four customized listening programs and Speech Zone technology (only available in the **Moxi Kiss Pro**) which assesses sound coming to both hearing aids to focus on which hearing aid is picking up speech and which is reducing the noise signal. The **Moxi Kiss** does not have a t-coil, however, it does have a feature called 'binaural phone' which allows you to hear the phone conversation in both of your ears.



Image courtesy of Unitron Hearing © 2013

The **Moxi Kiss** has wireless technology to communicate with many accessories such as a device that acts as a dual remote control for adjusting the volume as well as a Bluetooth interface for connecting to Bluetooth enabled cell phones or computers. The **Moxi Kiss** also enables wireless connection to a device for the television which streams sound directly from the TV to your hearing aids. Additionally, it can connect wirelessly to a small microphone that clips onto your companion's shirt to assist with hearing in challenging environments such as in restaurants or the car.

The **Moxi Kiss** can also be programmed as a tinnitus masking device for those who experience both hearing loss and problematic tinnitus (noises in the head not caused by an external source). The **Moxi Kiss** comes in a variety of colours that are plasma coated to prevent the finish from wearing away. For further information about the **Moxi Kiss** please consult with your audiologist. □

*The Quantum-Moxi family of Unitron Hearing Aids.
The Moxi Kiss is second on your left.*



Image courtesy of Unitron Hearing © 2013

Technology Update continued from page one . . .

Widex Dream

Widex has recently introduced their new family of hearing aids called Widex **Dream**. The **Dream** family includes six different styles of hearing aids to accommodate mild to severe or profound hearing losses. Styles range from small custom hearing aids that fit in the ear canal to a variety of behind-the-ear style hearing aids.

The **Dream** line has been developed using brand new computer technology and programming software which, according to Widex, preserves the fine details of incoming speech, making speech heard by the hearing aid wearer more natural. This feature could reduce the number of trips to the office for adjustments.

The **Dream** line continues to include the “SmartSpeak” feature with a real voice to tell you when the battery is getting low or what program you are in. This can help avoid confusion derived from having to memorize conventional beeping indicator patterns.

The **Dream** family continues to offer the Zen programs for people who suffer from tinnitus. The **Dream** line also offers wireless connection to accessories such as a basic remote control (RC-Dex), a device allowing for Bluetooth connectivity to Bluetooth enabled devices such as cell phones and iPads (M-Dex) and a device for wirelessly connecting to the television which transmits the sound from the TV directly to your hearing aids (TV-Dex). To find out more about the Widex **Dream** and it’s suitability to your lifestyle please contact your audiologist. □

Win a Free Box of Batteries



Bring a completed correct version of our
Summer Word Scramble
to either McNeill Audiology office and be eligible
for a draw for a box of hearing aid batteries
Draw to take place July 15, 2013



Name: _____

habec _____ ynusn _____

erubbaeq _____ ednrag _____

cedi eta _____ ssorth _____

diylhosa _____ hgnitba isut _____

nmigmisw _____ creensnsu _____

Changes at McNeill Audiology



Hello, my name is Emily! As some of you may know, I am the new office assistant here in our Oak Bay office. As a born and raised Victoria girl, I feel very lucky to be able to both live and work in such a wonderful community. I am a graduate of the University of Victoria with a degree in Art History, an area of study chosen by passion over practicality, but I loved every minute of my education.

Since graduating, I have been lucky enough to do some traveling and enjoy some down time after four years of study. I came to work at McNeill Audiology out of a desire to work with people and so far, it has been a wonderful experience.

Over these past few months, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you and your families and I want to thank you all for your kindness and patience throughout my training. Thank you for the warm welcomes and I look forward to meeting more of you soon! □

Assistive Listening Devices

written by Katie MacDonald, M.Sc. Aud.(C) Registered Audiologist

Hearing aids can provide considerable assistance with hearing but there are some situations in our everyday life where there may be a need for further help. Assistive listening devices, such as amplified telephones, TV listeners, vibrating alarm clocks and watches, tinnitus maskers, door bells connected to a light system, smoke alarms and personal amplifiers are usable with or without hearing aids and provide help to improve speech comprehension as well as alerting and signaling safety features.

McNeill Audiology has access to all of these types of assistive listening devices but because there are so many different options and people's needs are so varied we are unable to keep a stock. We have a few things on display as examples but would recommend coming in for an appointment with your audiologist to discuss your specific needs. They will be able to provide a device that is appropriate for your hearing loss and your lifestyle. In this article I will discuss a few of the available features with assistive listening devices.

Telephones

For some users, hearing aids and telephones do not get along very well. Difficulties understanding speech on the phone is a common concern. When speaking on the telephone, there is no access to visual cues to assist with comprehension, therefore we



need to maximize the auditory signal. A speaker phone on your telephone

can help to increase your ability to understand what was said because the voice signal travels to both of your ears rather than only one when using a handset.

Amplified telephones are another option which will increase the volume of your conversational partner on the other end. Amplified telephones come in a variety of different levels of amplification and the amplification you require is based on the degree of your hearing loss. Therefore when making a choice about what kind of telephone to buy it is important to consult with your audiologist. Amplified phones also come with a wide range of features including but not limited to: tone setting options, caller ID, answering machine, large keypads with high contrast numbers, amplification control and display light-up when the phone rings. Amplified telephones are available in cordless and corded options and can be expandable from 1-6 more handsets.

Some phones send out electrical activity which can cause noise in hearing aids making it important to ensure that the telephone is "hearing aid compatible".

Television Listeners

A common complaint from individuals with or without hearing loss is the inability to understand what is said on the television, particularly your British shows. The auditory signal that televisions produce degrades as it travels across the room to your ears. A television listening device takes the signal from the television directly to ear level, decreasing the signal degradation and increasing your chance of hearing the nuances of the Downton Abbey conversation.

Most of these devices are wireless, therefore no cables for anyone to trip on plus there is a volume control that you can adjust to your comfortable listening level while the other people in the room can have the television volume at their comfort level.



Other available devices include:

- ♦ Clocks and watches that have ring tone choices, adjustable volume, flashing lights and vibrating bed pads.
- ♦ Master units that alert you with lights or high volume to telephone calls, doorbells, fire bells, smoke detectors, baby crying or motion sensor to alert the presence of an intruder. A personal signal can notify you regardless of where you are in the home.
- ♦ Tinnitus maskers or sound conditioners that provide comfortable background noise that helps with unwanted background noise, including tinnitus.
- ♦ Personal voice amplifiers for meetings or interview situations.

All of these devices do not guarantee that you will hear everything but are designed to assist with your speech comprehension by improving your chance of hearing the different auditory signals. They can be an amazing addition to your hearing 'toolbox' and we are here to help you sort out all the options available and make an appropriate decision for you and your hearing loss. □

Research Assistance

Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
www.caslpa.ca

Speech and Hearing
www.speechandhearing.ca

Canadian Academy of Audiology
www.canadianaudiology.ca

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
www.chha.ca

College of Speech and Hearing Professionals of BC
www.cshhpb.org/

Healthy Hearing
www.healthyhearing.com

Widex
www.widex.ca

Phonak Corporation
www.phonak.com

Tinnitus Association of Canada
kadis.com/ta/tinnitus.htm

Unitron Hearing
www.unitron.com

Oticon /Phonic Ear
www.oticon.ca

Island Deaf & Hard of Hearing
www.idhhc.ca

Musicians' Clinics of Canada
www.musiciansclinics.com/home.asp

ClearSounds
www.clearsounds.com/

The Human Auditory Physiology Laboratory, U.B.C.
<http://www.audiospeech.ubc.ca/hap-lab/haplab.htm>

School of Audiology and Speech Sciences, U.B.C.
www.audiospeech.ubc.ca/

British Columbia Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists
www.bcaslpa.ca

The Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
www.widhh.com

Change of Address or Name

I have changed my address my name my e-mail address

Name _____ (previous) _____

New Address _____

New Phone Number _____

New e-mail address _____

Would you like to receive this newsletter by e-mail??

'Save a tree' and have your newsletter delivered by e-mail.

Let us know by e-mailing admin@mcneillaudiology.ca and we'll change the method of delivery for your newsletters.

Thanks!

For hearing solutions . . .

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