

What's New at McNeill Audiology

Thirtieth Edition | Winter 2013

Hearing Aid Listening Programs

By Edward Storzer, M.Sc. Aud.(C) Registered Audiologist

Modern digital hearing instruments have come a long way in terms of how they are able to process sound to provide clear comfortable hearing. In fact, most hearing aids are designed so that they will automatically adjust how they amplify sound based on the listening environment. Typically, a hearing aid in an automatic setting will focus on enhancing speech sounds and reducing background noise.

For some users, a hearing aid with an automatically adjusting setting will work perfectly well for day-to-day use, but for other users it can be useful to have a hearing aid that allows the user to manually change the hearing aid setting using a button on the hearing aid or a remote control. These different settings are called “listening programs”, and the purpose of this article is to outline some of the listening programs that are available.

It is important to note that some of these listening programs are only available for certain hearing aid models.

Automatic Program

If multiple listening programs are available, it is typical that the first program (the “start up” program) will be the default setting that automatically adjusts to enhance speech in a variety of listening environments. This automatic program can also be called the “master” or “universal” program.

Background Noise Program

Most hearing aids with listening programs will offer a setting that is focused on reducing background noise.

This can be especially useful in restaurants or at parties. Some noise reduction programs are designed to provide optimal comfort when hearing speech is not essential such as in traffic noise, when riding a bicycle, or out gardening.

Music Program

A music program is useful for musicians and music lovers. It is useful to use when listening to music at home or in public places.

TV Program

This program enhances some of the sounds that are unique to listening to television.

Telecoil (or T-Coil) Program

This program can be used with telecoil compatible phones, and with teleloop systems in public places.

Mute Program

Sometimes a hearing aid user wants the hearing aid to not amplify sound just for comfort while it is still in their ear. A mute program allows for this.

These are some of the more common listening programs. There are other more unique listening programs that do things like enhance higher frequency amplification, focus on hearing from behind (to use in a car, for example), and even play soothing tonal sounds to help relax or mask ringing in the ears.

Also, your audiologist is able to set up customized listening programs if need be. Please feel free to discuss listening programs with your audiologist. □

Changes at McNeill Audiology

Introducing Katie MacDonald

I am very excited to be the newest audiologist at McNeill Audiology. I am a new graduate from the University of British Columbia. I was lucky enough to work as an administrative assistant at McNeill Audiology while completing my undergraduate degree in Linguistics at the University of Victoria in 2007. My experience working with Brent and Edward motivated me to pursue a career in Audiology. I am very passionate about the field of audiology and am eager to begin helping people work towards their hearing goals.



Although my spare time has been rare over the past two years while completing the Audiology program, I enjoy running and am looking forward to exploring the island and joining a curling league once settled in Victoria.

Looking forward to meeting you!

Good-bye to Andrea

Our Office Assistant in Oak Bay has been working hard, taking night classes towards her Chartered Accountant designation and has recently obtained an articling position with a local downtown accounting firm. She has been with us for four and a half years and we thank her for all her hard work and dedication to McNeill Audiology. We wish her all the best. As this newsletter goes to press we are busy interviewing applicants to find a suitable replacement. □

T-Dex from Widex

Written by Kristina Plewes

M.Sc. Aud.(C) Registered Audiologist

Widex has recently introduced a hands-free option for connecting to bluetooth mobile phones for hearing aid users who have a telecoil (T-coil) option in their hearing aid.

The “T-Dex” has a neckloop that is worn around the neck and is connected to your mobile or cellular phone using Bluetooth technology. When a phone call comes in, the T-Dex transmits the call from the mobile phone wirelessly to the hearing aids with the press of a button. The hearing aids must be placed in the T-coil program prior to accepting a call through the T-Dex.

For hearing aid users with a T-coil, the T-Dex provides a hands-free option in situations such as driving in the car. In addition, because the T-Dex transmits the speaker’s voice directly to your hearing aids it can be useful in noisy situations such as restaurants or crowded places.

The T-Dex has a built-in rechargeable battery with a battery life of 14 hours of talking time per charge. The T-Dex can be used with hearing aids from ANY manufacturer, not just Widex hearing aids, providing the hearing aid has a T-coil option. Contact your audiologist to see if the Widex T-Dex is an appropriate option for you. □

Win a Free Box of Batteries



Bring a completed correct version of our **Winter Word Scramble**

to either McNeill Audiology office and be eligible for a draw for a box of hearing aid batteries

Draw to take place December 24, 2012



Name: _____

1. lcpriefea _____
2. yadcn enca _____
3. iicecl _____
4. tnasa _____
5. ggoeng _____

6. klowfeans _____
7. deegrigrbna _____
8. ntestmi _____
9. ogntagob _____
10. edrereni _____

Big Band Bash

McNeill Audiology had the privilege and the pleasure of being the presenting sponsor for a fund raising event for the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre. IDHHC is the only specialized social service agency on Vancouver Island, that provides counselling and support services for people dealing with a hearing loss. We strongly believe in what this organization does and try to support them in their endeavours. The event was a huge success with everyone thoroughly enjoying and dancing to the sounds of the Island Big Band, the Commodores and the Swiftsure Big Band.



Back row L to R: Mikes Hayes, Tom Wood, Mark Gillis, Patti O'Connor, Erynn Sheardown, Breanna O'Donnell, Denise Robertson. Front row L to R: Lundie Russell, Ruth Wilson, Angela Miranda, Marian Burnett, Janet Holland and Jill Bates-Smith

Left to right: Denise Robertson, IDHHC Executive Director; Brent McNeill, Tricia McNeill, Mike Hayes, IDHHC Board Chairperson; Patti O'Connor, IDHHC Resource Development

BC Early Hearing Program August 2012

Provided by Ann Marie Newroth, Provincial Director, BC Early Hearing Program (BCEHP)

In BC, over 45,000 babies are screened for hearing each year (97% of the babies born). Most are screened before they are one month old. Many are checked before they leave hospital. Most babies pass their screening. This tells families that their baby has good hearing at the time of the check. Some babies (about 700 babies each year) have unclear screening results and need further assessment by an audiologist. Last year, 111 babies were found to have hearing loss and started their early communication services by six months of age. BCEHP supports a range of family-centred services to optimize the development of language and communication. This

early start is important if children are to achieve optimal development and communication.

Families rate their experience with newborn hearing screening positively. We are surveying families about their experience of the different BCEHP services they use. In 2011, we completed our first survey. Over 550 parents were surveyed across BC to learn about their experience with newborn hearing screening and to find out what worked well and where improvements could be made. Of the families contacted:

- 96% rated their overall experience as good or very good,
- 97% of families believed that

all babies should have newborn hearing screening, and

- 97% of families found that screeners were respectful, interacted with their baby well and adequately explained the screening results.

These results were very encouraging. Over the next year, we will work with families to improve our information brochures and how screeners explain screening results and next steps. It was exciting to learn first hand from families about their screening experience.

If you would like to learn more, please visit our website at www.phsa.ca/earlyhearing. □

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

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/haplab/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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