



## High Powered Hearing Aids

**What is a High Powered Hearing Aid?**

**High Powered Hearing aids** are hearing assistive devices that provide high levels of amplification for persons with severe to profound hearing loss. In general, two intensity features define the term *high power*. When the maximum power output of the hearing aid exceeds 125 decibels (dB), and when the gain exceeds 70 dB, the hearing aid may be termed *high power*.

**What is the purpose?**

Persons with severe to profound hearing loss sometimes are unable to hear speech loudly enough to understand it, with more moderately powered hearing aids. Higher powered instruments may, sometimes, make speech easier to hear, especially when listening to otherwise quiet speech. High powered instruments may not necessarily improve speech recognition.

**Alternatives to High Powered Hearing Aid?**

Standard hearing aids and digital hearing aids with lower power settings should be used whenever possible. Digital hearing aids commonly provide better speech recognition at lower power settings. Some persons who are considering a high powered hearing aid might be cochlear implant candidates. Please ask your audiologist or physician about that option.

**Risks of High Powered Hearing Aids?**

High powered hearing aids put out so much sound energy that the hearing aid has some potential to cause noise-induced hearing loss. Understand that these instruments should not be used if a lower powered hearing aid can do the job adequately. When a more standard hearing aid fitting does not work well, using a high powered instrument may be reasonable. That decision should be made in consultation with your audiologist. You may experience ringing in the ear or ringing might increase. Rarely, high intensity noise can cause dizziness and it usually short lived. Persistent use of a high powered hearing aid in a severe to profoundly impaired ear can cause progressive loss of hearing to the point that a hearing aid might no longer work. The risk is higher when the problem is purely in the inner ear. In that event, you might become a cochlear implant candidate. Some folks would reason that the high powered hearing aid is the last potential option prior to hearing becoming poor enough to use a cochlear implant and, thus, be willing to accept the risk of poorer hearing that could be caused by a high powered hearing aid. Some persons have inner ears that are unusually sensitive to damage by loud noise and these individuals may experience worse hearing fairly rapidly after starting to use a high powered hearing aid. If you feel that your hearing is worse after using the hearing aid, you should stop using it and consult with your audiologist and/or ear physician.

Loud noise intolerance is a common problem among persons who are hearing impaired. When speech is too soft, these folks have poor speech recognition scores. When speech is even just a little too loud, these persons find the noise annoying or even painful. Persons with this tendency should report the problem promptly, stop using the hearing aid, and see if it can be adjusted for better tolerance. If adjustment does not clearly make the instrument more tolerable, you should stop using the hearing aid.

**Patient, guardian, or legal representative:**

The patient or patient's guardian or legal representative states by signing below that the above information has been communicated to the patient, guardian, or legal representative and that an opportunity to ask questions has been given. The consent form should not be signed until the patient, guardian, or legal representative has obtained a layman's understanding of the hearing aid issues and reasons for such. By signing the consent form, the patient, guardian, or legal guardian indicate a layman's understanding and a desire to proceed. If the information has been explained in another language, the person who translated must indicate by cosigning the document that all information from the doctor and from this consent form has been communicated to the patient, guardian, or legal representative and that all question have been answered satisfactorily.

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| Patient Printed Name             | Patient/Guardian Signature | Date Signed |
| Audiologist:                     | Witness:                   | Account #:  |
| Guardian/Translator Printed Name |                            | Language    |