

Hearing Aids



A multi-disciplinary team comprising Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) – Head & Neck Surgery doctors, a neurologist, audiologist, rehabilitation therapist and other specialists work together to care for patients by providing useful diagnostic information, treatments, counselling and advice.

What is a hearing aid?

A hearing aid is a small electronic device worn outside or inside the ear by a person with hearing difficulties. The hearing aid amplifies or makes sounds louder so that a person with hearing difficulty can communicate and listen normally. Latest models of hearing aids are digital and more compact in design. Modern hearing aids are like a computer – intelligent and automatic. Some also use Bluetooth technology to stream telephone calls, television programmes and music.



What are the different types of hearing aids?

There are four types of hearing aids:

- **Behind-the-ear (BTE)**

This type of hearing aid sits behind the ear and is held in place by an ear hook connected to an ear mould. The bigger it is, the more power it has. It is suitable for patients with severe or profound hearing loss.

- **In-the-ear (ITE) and in-the-canal (ITC)**

These are custom-made hearing aids that sit directly and comfortably in the ear. As they are small, they are suitable for patients with mild to moderately-severe hearing loss.



- **Completely-in-the-canal (CIC) and invisible-in-the-canal (IIC)**

These are the smallest custom-made hearing aids and they sit deep into the canal of the ear. As they are very small, they are meant for patients with mild to moderate hearing loss.

- **Receiver-in-canal (RIC) or receiver-in-the-ear (RITE)**

This is the latest type of hearing aid. They look similar to a BTE but a thin tube holds a receiver (also known as a speaker) to direct the amplified sound into the ear. The receiver sits deep into the ear canal and keeps the ear more open. It is therefore more comfortable. It is most suitable in patients with sloping high-frequency hearing loss, but can also be used for other types of hearing loss.

The type of hearing aid recommended by your audiologist will depend on the severity of your hearing loss, ear canal size and other factors.

How do I know if I need hearing aids?

If you struggle to listen to normal conversation or day-to-day sounds, miss out on words, and need to constantly turn up the television volume, please consult an ENT specialist or your doctor who will refer you to an audiologist to test your hearing. These specialists will be able to determine the type and degree of your hearing loss and advise if it can be treated medically, surgically or eased with a hearing aid.

Frequently asked questions

Why is wearing a hearing aid important?

Hearing impacts all areas of our life including communication, safety, entertainment and social well-being. Hearing loss affects your day-to-day communication and long term hearing loss may cut you off from social activities. This may affect your general sense of well-being. Studies show that wearing hearing aids can keep the nerves connecting the ear to the brain active.

How do I choose a hearing aid?

Consult an audiologist who specialises in diagnosing hearing loss and helping patients to manage their condition. Depending on the severity of your hearing loss, lifestyle, listening needs at home and at work, leisure activities, style preference and expectations, the audiologist can provide you with the necessary information to choose a suitable hearing aid. He/she will also let you try the appropriate hearing aids and answer your queries. Your condition and preference are important considerations when choosing the style and features of your hearing aid.



Can I get the same hearing aid as my friend?

The severity of hearing loss and needs vary from person to person. It is important to consider your condition and needs before purchasing the same aid as your friend. Similarly, if a particular hearing aid has not performed well for your friend, it does not mean that it is not suitable for you. Always consult an audiologist for professional advice on your choice of hearing aids.

Can I buy a hearing aid online?

A hearing aid is a complex device and not just an amplifier. It is very important to get your hearing tested by a professional audiologist, who can help you choose the most suitable aid and let you try it before ordering. The hearing aid has to be digitally-programmed according to your level of hearing loss and this may take several visits and adjustments. Hence, ordering hearing aids online may not address your unique hearing needs. Additionally, the audiologist can provide you with information on how to maintain and care for your hearing aid.



Do I need one or a pair of hearing aids?

If you have hearing loss in both ears, wearing a pair of hearing aids is recommended. This will allow a more natural sound transmission to the brain. Hearing from two ears also helps you locate where the speech or sound is coming from, to hear from a distance, hear in a group, in a noisy situation and for better overall hearing quality.

Will wearing a hearing aid worsen my hearing eventually?

A hearing aid will not worsen hearing as long as they are fitted using an accurate hearing test. Your audiologist will programme your hearing aid appropriately to meet your hearing needs.

For more information

Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital

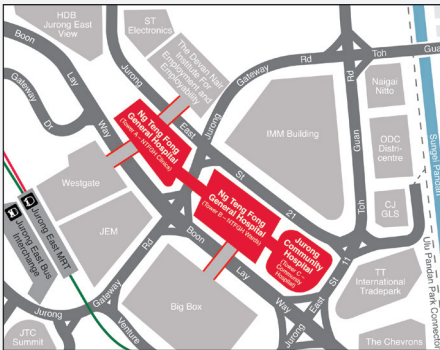
1 Jurong East St 21,
Singapore 609606
General enquiries: 6716 2000 Fax: 6716 5500
www.juronghealth.com.sg

Clinical and appointment line hours (closed on Sundays and public holidays)

For appointments, please call 6716 2222
Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm,
Saturday 8.00am - 12.30pm

For dental appointments, please call 6716 2233
Monday - Thursday 8.00am - 5.30pm
Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm

Getting there



By train

Jurong East MRT Station

By bus

From Jurong East Bus Interchange

SBS 51, 52, 66, 78, 79, 97, 97e, 98,
98M, 105, 143, 143M, 160, 183, 197,
333, 334, 335, 506

Along Boon Lay Way

SBS 99, Private bus service 625

Jurong Medical Centre

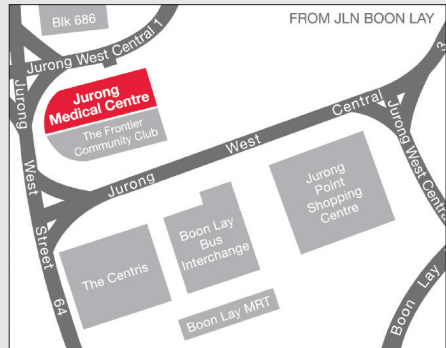
60 Jurong West Central 3,
Singapore 648346
General enquiries: 6716 2000 Fax: 6551 7999
www.jmc.com.sg

Clinical and appointment line hours (closed on Sundays and public holidays)

For appointments, please call 6716 2222
Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm,
Saturday 8.00am - 12.30pm

For dental appointments, please call 6716 2233
Monday - Thursday 8.00am - 5.30pm
Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm

Getting there



By train

Boon Lay MRT Station

By bus

SBS 30, 79, 154, 157, 174, 179, 181,
182, 192, 193, 194, 198, 199, 240, 241,
242, 243 W/G, 246, 249, 251, 252, 254,
255, 257, 405
SMRT 172, 178, 180, 187

Disclaimer:

The information in this brochure is meant for educational purposes and should not be used as substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. Please seek your doctor's advice before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.