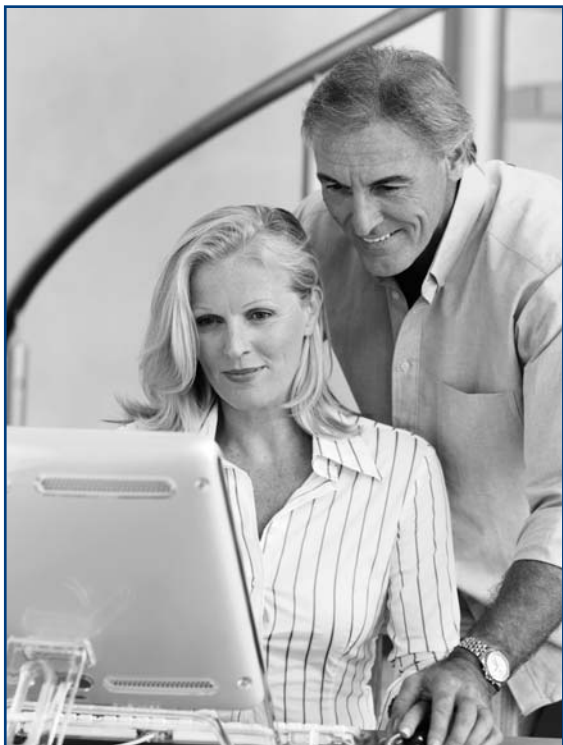


Frequently Asked Questions  
about  
**Hearing Loss**



## **Sight & Hearing**

*Two Essential Senses*

*Hear what you have been missing!*



## ***How common is hearing loss?***

Hearing loss is one of the most chronic health care problems facing older adults. More than 30 million Americans suffer from hearing loss, and as many as 80%, or 24 million people, are either undiagnosed or untreated. As our population continues to age the problem is growing. Recent studies show that over 50% of Baby Boomers are experiencing significant hearing loss as much as twenty years earlier than previous generations.

## ***Will my family doctor tell me I have a hearing problem?***

Unfortunately, statistics suggest less than 15% of family doctors address hearing, and of those that do, the effectiveness of their care varies. Because most hearing loss tends to be gradual, the symptoms may go unnoticed during a typical doctor visit. In addition, your family doctor is more likely to be concerned about other immediate health issues. To make sure your hearing is properly assessed, schedule a comprehensive hearing evaluation with Dr. Schwartz.

## ***What are the signs of hearing loss?***

- Difficulty hearing conversations in crowded places.
- Ringing or other noises in your ears.
- Friends & family members commenting that you don't seem to hear them.
- Others complaining that you watch TV with the volume too high.
- Feeling that people are mumbling, speaking too fast or speaking unclearly in everyday conversations.
- Trouble knowing where sounds are coming from.

## ***What should I expect during a comprehensive hearing examination?***

In general, most hearing centers perform some variation of the standard air bone and speech testing. Optivision performs the most comprehensive exam available. Using state-of-the-art technology, we systematically perform a series of tests designed to predict the body's neurological and mechanical abilities to detect and amplify sound, as well as the ability to interpret speech. Testing is performed in a comfortable setting and takes 45-60 minutes.

## ***What should I expect after the comprehensive hearing examination?***

After the exam, our sophisticated equipment will generate a detailed report which Dr. Schwartz will interpret and then explain to you. After the exam you should have a clear understanding of your hearing capabilities and the treatment options available to you.

## ***If I have hearing loss, why should I wear hearing aids if I can “get by” without them?***

Untreated hearing loss is more noticeable than you might think. Miscommunication is noticeable to others and can lead to negative behavioral changes. Many people with untreated hearing loss gradually withdraw from activities they enjoy, leading to isolation and depression. “You should hear what you have been missing.”

## ***How do I know which hearing aids are right for me?***

Dr. Schwartz will help you select the best hearing aid style and fit based on your life style needs and hearing loss. You’ll also be instructed on how to use the hearing aids to achieve the best possible results.

## ***Can I try hearing aids to see if they are right for me?***

Absolutely. At Optivision we have a 30-day trial period. If you are dissatisfied with your hearing aid you can return it within the 30-day period and receive a refund, or exchange your hearing aid for a different style.

## ***Are all hearing aids alike?***

No. We offer a full line of hearing aids with many different features and benefits so we can meet the needs of various types of hearing loss. Only an experienced professional who is knowledgeable and experienced in prescribing these devices can best choose an appropriate hearing aid for you.

## ***How much do hearing aids cost?***

Quality hearing aids are available in all price ranges and are competitively priced. We do not use promotional pricing, misleading advertising, or sell discontinued models, which can make the process of selecting a hearing aid confusing and lead to a choice that may not be right for your individual needs. At Optivision you can be assured of being prescribed the correct hearing aid at a competitive price. We also offer patient financing with extended payment plans.

## ***Are hearing aids covered by Medicare?***

While the comprehensive hearing evaluation is typically covered by Medicare and insurance, the hearing aid itself is not covered by Medicare, and is only rarely covered by other health insurance.

## ***Will I need two hearing aids?***

Because you have two ears, you naturally hear in stereo. Most patients are prescribed two hearing aids because most hearing loss occurs symmetrically in both ears.

## ***Why do hearing aids whistle?***

The whistle associated with hearing aids is called feedback. It occurs when air escapes from the sides of an aid and is picked up by the microphone creating a whistling sound. Fortunately, using the newest and most sophisticated hearing aid technology allows us to eliminate this problem altogether for patients.

## ***Will a hearing aid make all sounds louder, including background noise?***

Today's hearing aids use directional microphones and advanced programming to detect human speech and distinguish it from unwanted noise.

***To learn more, please schedule a hearing evaluation today by calling our office at 1-800-263-0404.***



[www.optivisioneyecare.com](http://www.optivisioneyecare.com)

## Heather L. Schwartz, Au.D., CCC-A



Dr. Schwartz is a graduate of the University of Minnesota where she received a B.A. in child psychology. Dr. Schwartz earned her clinical doctorate degree in audiology from Syracuse University and completed her residency at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Dr. Schwartz is a licensed audiologist and a certified member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She specializes in diagnosing hearing loss, patient education and custom fitting patients with the most advanced hearing aid technology. Dr. Schwartz enjoys keeping up-to-date with current research in the field of audiology and has a special interest in electrophysiology, the measurement of the electrical activity of the auditory nervous system.

A Wisconsin native, Dr. Schwartz enjoys spending time with family. Her favorite hobbies include: computer work, watching movies, reading, and traveling.

## Hearing services are provided at the following OptiVision locations:

### **NEENAH**

240 First Street  
920.729.6600

### **OSHKOSH - EAST**

503 Doctors Court  
920.236.3540

### **OSHKOSH - WEST**

509 S. Washburn Street  
920.236.4160



*Gerald P. Clarke, MD, Elizabeth Y. Holland, MD, and  
Stephen S. Dudley, MD, FACS*

For more than two decades, we have strived to provide our patients with the highest level of vision care, state-of-the-art surgery for vision disorders and vision correction procedures. Our team of doctors and dedicated staff are committed to be the best in quality and full service to our patients. We are constantly looking to improve the ways we can serve our patients in a cost-effective manner.

## **When choosing an eye care provider, consider these OptiVision services:**

- No stitch, no needle, micro incision cataract surgery and multi-focal lens implants
- Treatment for glaucoma and dry eyes
- Routine eye care for all ages
- Contact lens fittings
- Sports vision
- Hearing examinations
- Privileges at seven local hospitals
- Affiliation with virtually all insurance plans
- Laser vision correction (LASIK)

***OptiVision has been voted "BEST IN THE VALLEY"  
for two years in a row.***

**1-800-263-0404**