How do I know which hearing aid is right for me?

There are Many Factors That Go into Choosing a Hearing Aid:

1. **Type and Degree of Hearing loss**: We could test the hearing of 100 people of the same age and similar background and still see 100 different hearing losses. Because of this wide variation, we offer many different types of hearing aids to fit different types of hearing loss.
2. **Style of Hearing Aid**: Some hearing aids have a piece that sits behind your ear, while other options are fully inserted into your ear. The shape of your hearing loss, your ear anatomy, and features you would like from a hearing aid will influence which style is best for you.
3. **Features**: All hearing aids have their own set of “bells and whistles.” Whether you are looking for something rechargeable, a “find my hearing aid” feature, or phone connectivity, there is always an option. Even if two people have a very similar hearing loss, they may be better suited for two different hearing aids, due to features that are available in certain devices.
4. **Price:** Hearing aids have a wide range of pricing. The main thing that influences this pricing is the level of technology or the sophistication of the device, which can impact things like sound quality or how two hearing aids work together. Some hearing aids even offer a notification if one hearing aid falls out or gets too far from its paired partner. Regardless of the features, all hearing aids offered to you at Island ENT can be programmed to most hearing losses.

# Seeking Professional Advice on Different Types of Hearing Aids

**Professional Advice vs Over-the-Counter:** Hearing aids have been approved to be purchased over the counter for mild to moderate perceived hearing loss in adults. There are a wide range of options available, which also has led to a wide range in quality. Over the counter hearing aids are typically not fit to your hearing loss, but rather a one-size-fits-most approach. As previously discussed, hearing losses can vary widely, so a one-size-fits-most option may not be right for you. At Island ENT, we use Real Ear Measures to fit your hearing aids to prescriptive targets, which ensures your hearing aids are appropriately amplifying the right frequencies, or pitches, for your hearing loss.

**How to Choose**: As reviewed in this article, there are many components that can influence what hearing aid is best for you. On top of those elements, there are also many different companies that offer good hearing aids. Come in for an appointment with our Audiologist, who is familiar with the products and has extensive training on hearing loss, to guide you to the best solution for YOU.

**Making an Appointment**: A Hearing Aid Evaluation is a no-charge appointment designed to help you explore your options with a Doctor of Audiology. This is an hour long appointment to discuss goals, features, and lifestyle to find the best fit for your individual needs. Prior to this appointment, you will need a recent hearing test, which you can bring with you, or you can schedule to have performed prior to your appointment.