

Delays & Disorders Explained – Low Gain Hearing Aids (LGHA) –



A GUIDE FOR CAREGIVERS

WHAT ARE LOW GAIN HEARING AIDS?

Low Gain Hearing Aids (LGHA) are commonly used for those clients that struggle to process conversations particularly in the presence of background noise.

- They are commonly used for auditory processing disorder (APD).

WHEN ARE LGHA ARE NEEDED?

LGHA are most often used for functional hearing loss (i.e. normal hearing test but difficulties listening in noise).

- Difficulty understanding speech in noisy environments.
- Frequently asking people to repeat themselves.
- Withdrawing from social settings and social engagements.
- Triggered by noises, chewing, loud sounds.

WHAT DOES TESTING FOR LGHA INVOLVE?

Testing for LGHA typically involves a comprehensive hearing evaluation by an audiologist, including:

- Pure-tone audiometry and speech audiometry.
- Auditory processing testing (APD).
- Testing real ear measures for accuracy of fitting protocol to ensure adequate volume is provided in the setting.

LGHA can be used at home, school, and work by wearing them consistently in various settings where clarity of speech is necessary, in the presence of noise.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO LGHA?

The benefits and outcomes of Low Gain Hearing Aids include:

- **Improved Communication:**
LGHA amplify sounds just enough to be above background noise and distractions, making speech clarity distinct compared to environmental sounds despite normal hearing.
- **Enhanced Social Interaction:**
With clearer auditory perception, individuals wearing LGHA can more effectively engage in conversations and social activities, leading to improved interpersonal relationships and overall quality of life.
- **Better Academic & Work Performance:**
For students and professionals with auditory processing disorder, LGHA can facilitate better comprehension of lectures, instructions, and discussions, leading to improved academic and occupational performance. Speech becomes “crisper” and brighter while background noises are dampened/reduced.
- **Enhanced psychological well-being:**
By addressing processing difficulties, LGHA can reduce feelings of frustration, isolation, and anxiety commonly associated with auditory processing disorder, promoting greater emotional well-being and confidence.

Overall, LGHA contribute to a more fulfilling and independent lifestyle for individuals with mild to moderate hearing impairment, enabling them to participate more fully in daily activities and interactions.