



**Head & Neck Surgery**  
of Kansas City, P.A.

**OTOLARYNGOLOGY - HEAD & NECK SURGERY**  
**FACIAL PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY**

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## What you need to know regarding OTC (Over-the-Counter) Hearing Aids:

### NOT EVERYONE CAN USE OTC HEARING AIDS

*There are multiple types of hearing loss and not all can be addressed with an OTC product. Audiology services are critical to positive patient outcomes that include monitoring hearing changes over time.*

#### Who are OTC products for?

- People with mild to moderate hearing loss
- People who have minimal difficulty with background noise
- People who are hesitant to try a prescription hearing aid

#### Who are OTC products NOT for?

- People with ear pain or drainage, difference in hearing between ears, sudden hearing loss/tinnitus/vertigo in the last 6 months
- People 18 years of age or younger
- People with moderate to profound hearing loss

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRESCRIPTION AND OTC HEARING AIDS

#### Prescription:

- Recommended after a diagnostic hearing test by an Audiologist
- Custom fit and programmed to patient's specific hearing loss
- Access to an Audiologist for service/support when needed
- 3-year warranties included, minimum 30-day trial

#### OTC:

- No hearing test to evaluate for correct device/settings
- Can be purchased at retailers, department stores, online
- Programmed by the user, not able to be fine-tuned
- In-person professional **not** available if device malfunctions
- Warranties / Trial periods not always available

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