

HEARCARE

Newsletter

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- Article
- Patient Spotlight
- Dear Dr. HearCare Q&A
- Updates and Events Calendar

Does hearing effect your love of music?

What are some of your favorite sounds? Our lives are filled with sounds that can transport us to a time or place with meaning. Although not all sounds are pleasant, they do evoke an emotional response.

Researchers wanted to know whether or not people with hearing loss have the same emotional responses to sound as those without.



Music is a sound capable of eliciting a wide range of emotional responses, and as such, was the tool used to test this concept. The study divided sound into four categories; pleasant/excited, pleasant/calm, unpleasant/excited, and unpleasant/calm.

Each participant rated their responses to the sounds and were scored accordingly. Participants ranged in age from 22 to 80; and severity of hearing loss from normal to moderately-severe sensorineural hearing loss.

continued...

The results of the study showed that as the severity of hearing increased (worse hearing), the emotional response lessened. Not only did participants with more severe hearing loss have less emotional reactions to the music, they also found more sounds to be unpleasant. There was no difference in results based on age, but a significant difference based on hearing.

“These data suggest that listeners with sensorineural hearing loss are less emotionally affected by sounds than their peers with normal hearing. As a result, people with hearing loss may not be fully benefiting from activities that their peers with normal hearing find pleasurable, like laughing with friends or listening to music.”

The results of the study also showed that consistent hearing device users responded more similarly to the individuals with normal hearing when it came to pleasant or unpleasant sounds. This means that wearing an appropriately fit and programmed hearing device can make listening more enjoyable for individuals with hearing loss.

As Doctors of Audiology we are always striving to improve the way individuals with hearing loss perceive their surroundings and interact with others. Difficulty in noise or with hearing music are common complaints for hearing device users. This can have a significant negative impact on one’s quality of life, and that of those close to them.

Modern hearing devices are designed to give the user a more authentic perception of music. They also have technology which allows the wearer to hear speech better in more difficult environments such as restaurants and groups. With improvements in technology, those with hearing loss can enjoy music and laughter and find emotional connections to the sounds around them through the use of quality hearing devices. As always, it is important to see a professional to ensure proper fitting and care of hearing devices.

REFERENCE:

Picou, E. M., Buono, G. H., & Virts, M. L. (2017, May). *Can Hearing Aids Affect Emotional Response to Sound? Hearing Journal*, 70(5), 14-16.

PATIENT SPOTLIGHT

MEET DEAN

I will begin by saying that I sing in a pretty darn good Barbershop chorus called “Heralds of Harmony” from Tampa Florida. We took 3rd place in the world championship contest last year. I say this because this is an cappella group where matching your voice within the sound is critical. Singing in tune is a must and a person who is hard of hearing has a difficult time adjusting their pitch accurately.



I sure did! I could tell through recording myself within the group while singing, that I was no longer accurate. I was beginning to think my involvement at this level was over, that is, until I got tested and received my hearing aids. I was hearing myself mainly through my own internal bone conduction and trying to use that to match what I was perceiving around me. Getting the correct hearing aids programmed to my specific hearing loss has enabled me to hear everything now. I can not only hear my internal sound, but I can hear my actual external voicing tone, pitch, and volume. I can now match it to the overall sound of the chorus. Now, based on recording myself, my voice fits within the sound of the group and I am able to contribute fully to their sound. This year we going for gold!!

Do you have a story to share? Email us at info@myheacrae.com

Dear Dr. HearCare

ENJOY THE SOUND OF MUSIC



A common complain among music lovers with hearing loss is that the music doesn't sound the same. Even after receiving treatment with hearing devices, sometimes music has a different sound quality.

Hearing aids are made for speech clarity, not music listening, so that may mean you miss some of the nuances of music. But, now, with new technology music listening is better than ever! Talk to your Audiologist about Bluetooth streaming and how to use your built in equalizer to enhance music to your preferences. You can also ask about adding a dedicated music program to your devices. There are more ways than ever to enjoy music as it should be once again.

*Do you have a question we can answer?
Email Dr. HearCare at: info@myhearcare.com*

UPCOMING EVENTS

april 2024



April 7th- Sarah's Birthday!

April 22nd- EARTH DAY!

don't forget to recycle your hearing aid batteries

may 2024

Monday May 27th- MEMORIAL DAY
Both offices closed

june 2024



June 20th- Jeff's Birthday!
June 21st- Megan's Birthday!



Be on the lookout for more information regarding our monthly events!