

Clear Hearing, Clear Connection



Cutting-edge Care from Wichita Ear Clinic

Written by **John M. Lasak, MD**

Do you struggle to understand conversations at home? At dinner parties? The theater? Socializing with friends and family? Do you struggle to hear the TV?

Then you are probably experiencing hearing loss. Even mild hearing loss can affect your ability to communicate, understand, and enjoy time with family and friends. Having fun with your friends and family is required for a healthy mind and body! The Lancet Commission on Dementia Prevention and Intervention concluded that treating hearing loss is protective against dementia¹. Hearing and socialization is simply good for your health!

Hearing loss may occur anywhere along the hearing pathway, and can be treated medically, surgically or with hearing aids.² Whether your loss is mild or profound, or in one ear or two, there is a solution.

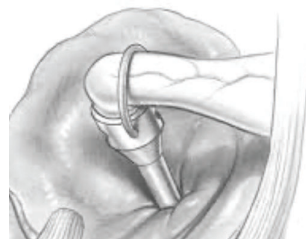
procedure to replace a poorly mobile stapes (stirrup) bone. This often obviates the need for a hearing aid.

Bone conduction hearing aids (BAHA) are surgical devices for people who can't wear traditional hearing aids for a variety of reasons. This implant can be used for hearing loss in one or both ears and can bypass hearing loss due to problems with the ear canal, drum, or hearing bones. This outpatient surgery directly stimulates the inner ear (cochlea) and improves the ability to hear and understand in noisier environments. There is no in-the-ear component with this device since it is an implant.

The cochlear implant is a device that bypasses a poorly hearing inner ear (cochlea) and directly stimulates the hearing nerve. This device is typically a game changer for those with severe communication difficulties.



The Lyric



Stapedectomy



Bone conduction hearing implant



Cochlear implant

Hearing Aids

I know; nobody wants them! They come in several types, shapes and forms. The skinny: you don't likely need that big clunky thing grandpa wore behind his ear. We can try to hide them if you want to be discreet, or we can make them purple if you want to stand out in the crowd!

The Lyric is a disposable hearing aid that is completely hidden in the ear canal. We swap it out for you in the office every few months and there are no batteries to worry about. It's discrete and you can exercise, golf, shower, and do just about everything but submerge your head in water while using it.

Surgery

Sometimes middle ear surgery can be performed so hearing aids aren't necessary. This typically involves fixing a problem with the eardrum or hearing bones. Otosclerosis is a correctable form of hearing loss that often runs in families. The hearing loss is corrected with a stapedectomy, a short outpatient surgical

Cochlear implants have traditionally been for adults and children with bilateral severe to profound loss; however, implantation for hearing loss in one ear is becoming more common.

***Our goal is to improve your quality of life!
Contact us for an appointment.***

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SOURCES

1. "Dementia Prevention, Intervention, and Care," 2020 report of the Lancet Commission
2. "Hearing Loss: Diagnosis and Management," John M. Lasak, Patrick Allen, Tim McVay, and Douglas Lewis, Elsevier 2014