






Allen-Fisher Acoustics- Hearing Clinic

Comparison of Hearing Aid Styles

	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Open Fit</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provides superior sound ✓ Easy to insert ✓ Less prone to 'occlusion effects'. Clients report their own voice quality is much improved from the old 'occluding' aids. ✓ Very small and <i>automatic</i>. ✓ Some can use <i>remote controls</i> to vary the sound. ✓ Available in a modern colours ✓ Some can be linked by <i>blue-tooth</i> to mobile phones, Ipods, TV devices and normal wired phones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Not suitable for people with <i>severe</i> hearing loss. ✗ No or exceedingly small controls so clients may have to use a <i>remote control</i>. ✗ These aids use small batteries that require changing more frequently than other aids.
<p>Behind The Ear (BTE)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Best aid for severe hearing losses ✓ Can be fitted to milder losses ✓ Least prone to whistle or <i>feed back</i>. ✓ Aid can be automatic ✓ controls are relatively easy to use ✓ Generally very robust aids ✓ Has longest battery life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Not suited to clients with very small ears particularly if they wear glasses.
<p>In the Ear (ITE)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More powerful hearing aid than ITC or CIC. ✓ Larger volume control than ITC or CIC ✓ Other controls can be included such as programming or telephone switches. ✓ Less prone to feedback or whistling problems than ITC or CIC ✓ Aid can be fitted as a totally <i>automatic</i> settings. ✓ With an <i>autophone</i> or automatic phone listening program, it works well with the telephone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Less cosmetically appealing than CIC or ITC or Open Fit. ✗ With certain losses, the <i>occlusion effect</i> or loud amplification of the client's own voice can be annoying for the client

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<p>In the Canal (ITC)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ More cosmetically appealing than BTE or ITE.✓ The aids can be fitted as an automatic device.✓ With an <i>autophone</i> or automatic phone listening program, it works well with the telephone.✓ Can be fitted with a <i>remote control</i> to control the sound.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ More prone to feedback or whistling.✗ The small controls are more difficult to use.✗ With certain losses, the <i>occlusion effect</i> or very loud amplification of client's own voice can be annoying for the client
<p>Completely in the Canal (CIC)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Cosmetically appealing hearing aid as it is almost invisible to the eye.✓ Excellent for telephone use as there are no switches and the phone sits against the external ear.✓ Several acoustic advantages as the hearing aid uses the ear for enhanced directionality unlike other aids.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Certain hearing losses and certain ear canal shapes exclude the use of this aid.✗ Battery life is very short✗ Some clients are unable to correctly place this very small hearing aid.✗ The hearing aid has no controls.✗ The aids are most prone to <i>feedback or whistling</i>✗ A tight fitting mold is required and some clients find this uncomfortable.