

Get Ready for the Next Greatest Hearing Aid

By Patrick C. Fournier BC-HIS

In 1955 Beltone came out with the small and revolutionary “Hear-N-See” eyeglass hearing aid. Each temple piece contained 3 transistors.



Last month, Phonak Hearing Systems came out with its Exelia hearing aid. This digital hearing aid is a computer with **8 million** transistors on its circuit board. The circuit board, by the way would fit on the head of a pin!

What does all this mean to you? Well, it means that hearing aids are getting closer to natural hearing and has features that will greatly enhance your ability to hear in the most difficult of situations. Let’s go through some of these features.

The Exelia has an automatic program called “soundflow.”



One of the problems people have expressed with automatic hearing aids is that they seem to “shut down” sometimes. They don’t shut down, the hearing aid instead changes to back-

ground noise suppression and the wearer experiences a noticeable change.

How the Exelia works is the hearing aid’s on-board computer continually monitors and mixes amplifying protocols so that the hearing aid is always tuned to the best means of amplification for the acoustical environment you are in. Because it mixes protocols, the hearing aid does not appear to change by itself.

The Exelia has a system called “QuickSync” this allows a volume control on one hearing aid to turn up the volume on both. A program button on the other hearing aid will control what manual memory you will have on both as well. The Exelia also connects wirelessly to a bluetooth telephone or other device.

You can add an easy to use remote control to the Exelia which allows you to see what you are doing. A remote control can greatly enhance your ability to hear better in hard to hearing situations. One of the coolest features with the remote is something called

“ZoomControl”. This feature allows you to direct the directional microphone to any direction. For instance, you can focus your aids to pick up voices from the backseat of your car.



Another great feature of the Exelia is “SoundRelax” which stops sudden loud sounds from being amplified. It has “VoiceZoom”, an improved directional microphone which helps the wearer cut through background noise. It has an improved wind noise suppression system. Something we need around here! Its “NoiseBlock” processing is more effective than ever at quieting machine noise.



The Naida

We have focused here on the Top-of-the-Line Exelia for this article, but we have many more new additions to our product line. One of these is called the Naida.

The Naida is a very powerful Behind the Ear Hearing aid that is very water resistant. Thanks to “QuickSync” you control two hearing aids with one touch. But the most innovative feature of the Naida is something called “ SoundRecover.” This feature actually takes frequencies of speech and transposes them to different frequencies. For someone who has a profound hearing loss in part of the speech range there are sounds that cannot be amplified enough. Those sounds can be moved to a different frequency where they can be heard better. If you have a profound hearing loss, ask to listen to this new hearing aid. It could change your life.