

Hearing Aids Are Too Expensive

No doubt about it, hearing aids are pricey. Hearing aid dispensers explain that manufacturer's research costs and store overhead are factored into hearing aid costs. Also, each customer must have separate testing, fitting and adjustments, which are also part of the cost. They also emphasize that hearing aids are not sold in vast quantities like televisions. However, dealers still need to make enough profit to earn a living. So, it would appear, buyers pay more to compensate.

When you consider the cost of amplification you should consider the frustration of difficult communication as well as the time wasted when communication fails. Your self-image and the perspectives of others with whom you communicate cannot be ignored. It would be difficult to put a cost on the psychological and social impact of hearing loss on communication, but it should be considered when thinking about such an investment.

Costs may be contained somewhat if you are a good comparison shopper. Within one community a \$500 difference in the price of a specific hearing aid was documented by a consumer magazine. In addition, if you are in serious financial need, many community clinics and universities that have audiology training programs have sliding fee scales for those in need.