



Portsmouth Hospitals
University
NHS Trust

How should I care for my hearing aid? Open fit

Audiology Department

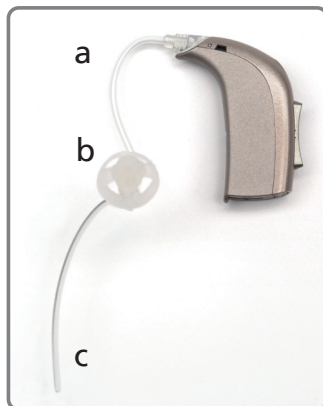
Specialist Support

This leaflet can be made available in another language, large print or another format. Please speak to a member of staff who can advise you

Working together To drive excellence in care for our patients and communities



How do I insert my open fit hearing aid?



Open fit hearing aid
(a) tube (b) dome
(c) tail (optional)



Place the hearing aid
behind your ear.



Push the soft tip (b)
into your ear canal
so that the tube lies
flat against the side
of your ear



Fold the tail (c) backwards into
the bowl of the ear if you have
this on your hearing aid.



This is how a correctly fitted
hearing aid should look.

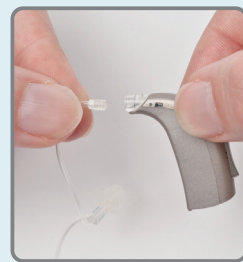
When do I need to change the battery?

- Batteries usually last for approximately 7 - 14 days but this depends on the type and strength of your hearing aid.
- The hearing aid will emit a battery warning beep before the battery runs out completely.
- Change the battery as soon as you can after you hear the warning beep.



How do I keep my hearing aid clean?

- Gently unclip the tube **(a)** from the hearing aid. This will either pull or unscrew from the hearing aid.
- You should have been provided with a cleaning tool at your fitting appointment. Insert this tool all the way through the tube, starting at the end you unclipped from the hearing aid and finishing by pulling it from the dome **(b)** end. If you need a further supply of cleaning wires, please contact the Audiology department.
- It is not advisable to wash the tube and dome in water as moisture will then likely block the tube and stop sound from the hearing aid. If you are unable to clear any blockages with the cleaning wire or there is a kink in the tube, then replace the tube and dome for a new set.



How often does the tubing need to be changed?

- Open fit tubes **(a)** and domes **(b)** need to be changed every 3 - 4 months. Please contact the Audiology department when you require more tubes and domes.
- If you remove the dome from the tube, please replace it with a new dome as taking the same dome on and off the tube can stretch it and then there is a potential risk of the dome coming away from the tube in the ear, becoming lodged in the ear canal.



What should I do with the aid when I am not wearing it?

- The hearing aid should be switched off by opening the battery compartment and put in its case away from children and pets. This is very important as the batteries can be dangerous if swallowed.

A tamper-proof drawer can be fitted if there is a risk of the batteries being swallowed whilst this in use. This means a special tool will need to be used to open the battery compartment. Please contact the Audiology department to have this fitted.

Is my hearing aid sensitive to moisture?

- Although the hearing aids are generally very robust, they tend to be sensitive to moisture.
- Please keep your hearing aid dry where possible, remembering to take it out when swimming, bathing, or showering.
- If you get caught out in heavy rain then it's advisable to put your hearing aid in its case until you are out of the rain.
- In warmer weather hearing aids can be affected by perspiration. Moisture droplets can form in the tubing, preventing the sound from passing through effectively. If this happens then you can replace the tube and dome.
- If perspiration is a problem, then a drying pot can be purchased from Connevens at: www.connevens.co.uk or telephone 01737 247571







Consent - What does this mean?

Before any doctor, nurse or therapist examines or treats you they **must** have your **consent** or permission.

Consent ranges from allowing a doctor to take your blood pressure (rolling up your sleeve and presenting your arm is implied consent) to signing a form saying you agree to the treatment or operation.

It is important **before** giving permission that you understand what you are agreeing to. **If you do not understand – ask.** More detailed information is available on request.

How to comment on your treatment

We aim to provide the best possible service and if you have a question or a concern about your treatment then the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are always happy to try to help you get answers you need. You can contact PALS on **0800 917 6039** or E-mail:

PHT.pals@porthosp.nhs.uk who will contact the department concerned on your behalf.

Data Protection Legislation – Privacy Notice

Further information on how we look after your personal information can be found on the Trust Information Governance webpage at www.porthosp.nhs.uk - or alternatively, please speak to a member of staff.

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