



“Anyone can get hearing aids from anywhere... even buy them online. But without proper fitting, adjustment and rehabilitation, users will experience a lot of difficulties.”

Dealing with hearing loss

A number of factors can lead to hearing loss or hearing impairment, the most common being chronic ear infections

Depending on the nature of hearing loss, it may or may not be treated medically or surgically. According to Mok Yong Yaw, founder and audiologist at 20dB Hearing, only 20% of hearing loss can be treated medically or surgically, while the remaining 80% cannot be treated.

For the latter, the aid of hearing devices is necessary to help restore their hearing.

Conductive hearing losses like a broken eardrum or an infected middle ear can be surgically treated. However, more severe cases like damage to the inner ear, also known as sensorineural hearing loss cannot be treated.

“Eighty per cent of hearing losses are sensorineural. And what we do is prescribe hearing aid, which can help to restore a patient’s hearing to about 80%,” Mok tells BorneoTalk.

“For more profound cases, we recommend cochlear implant, which is a surgical procedure where we need to insert an electrode into the damaged cochlear,” he explained further, adding that the patient would still need to wear an external amplifier.

Mok went on saying that cochlear implant was highly effective, and that there were cases where patients’ hearing were back to normal after that.



On hearing aids, he explained that it was important for patients to seek expert opinion and advice from properly trained audiologists.



According to Mok, there are plenty of warning signs indicating early stages of hearing loss. For example, when someone is unable to hear his/her phone ringing but can hear people’s voices just fine, that indicates an early stage of high frequency hearing loss. This calls for a hearing test. He also advised people above 50 years of age to undergo hearing test as problems with hearing may start to arise at this stage.

20dB Hearing offers hearing assessment for children and adults, digital aid fitting, cochlear implant consultation, assistive listening devices, speech therapy as well as repairing and servicing of hearing aids among other things. It has 18 chained outlets all over Malaysia to date, including Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri in East Malaysia.



For consultation, please call **1800 88 2032** or **+6082 411 220** (Kuching), **+6084 312 211** (Sibu), **+6086 315 382** (Bintulu), **+6085 424 019** (Miri) .  customercare@20dbhearing.com .  www.20dbhearing.com .  20dBhearing