

"We listen so you can hear"

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Dr. Mercer: We are coming face to face with the reality that our last child is starting to take steps toward life after high school. Cameron is a junior but just took his SATs and is getting mail from colleges. Where does the time go??? Thomas is finishing his sophomore year at WSU and preparing to study in Greece this summer. Boy, has college changed since we went! We are driving down to Yosemite National park over spring break next week to enjoy a part of our beautiful country. I've packed lots of good books and my bagpipes to bother everyone there (just kidding).

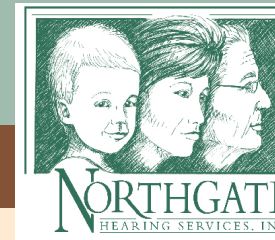
Dr. Gray: I'm lovin' the spring! Spring has always been my favorite time (maybe because I was born in March). I love the daffodils and especially the smell of the hyacinths. My new house doesn't have many flowers so I'm planning a big trip to Swanson's Nursery to take care of that problem. My kids are busy with track (the son) and spring skiing (the daughter). My husband is contemplating building a storage shed and the dog is thrilled with just sitting outside and barking at squirrels.

Larci: I want to take a moment and thank all of you for your well wishes and concern this last year, my new hip had its' birthday this month and is doing great! I am looking forward to a more productive spring and summer in the garden. Veronica is doing great in school, she has maintained her 4.0 throughout this year. My husband is getting ready to start a weekend fishing trip with friends in Eastern Washington. I hope everyone enjoys spring!

Catherine: Spring is definitely here, one of my favorite seasons! My youngest son graduates from high school in June and is still deciding on college for next year. Since I'll have an empty nest next year I've decided to "downsize" and put my house up for sale. I'm in the process of sorting, cleaning and organizing, what a big job! We will be busy with lots of exciting changes in the coming months! Hope good things come your way too!

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www.northgatehearing.com

April 2010

Northgate Hearing Services, Inc.

New Technologies Continue to Wow



The one question we hear most often is "What's new in hearing aids?" and while hearing aid technologies are constantly evolving, we want to bring your attention to one system we are having very encouraging results with.

The Oticon Agil provides the most clear, natural sound quality available today. The redesigned computer chip "helps you intuitively make sense of your surroundings and focus on what you choose by supporting your natural ability to organize sounds. It achieves this through three concepts that combine to offer an unparalleled experience: improved conversation with less effort." (Oticon website)

1. Spatial Sound helps you organise sounds, know where they come from and make sense of your surroundings. You will also be more able to select the person or sound source you want to listen to, and ignore those you don't.

2. Speech Guard improves your ability to follow conversations in complex environments. A person's voice is as individual as the person themselves. Speech Guard preserves many of these subtle characteristics such as the particular pitch and tonality. This means that, even when there are many sounds in the background, the Oticon Agil makes it easier for you to select and follow the voice you wish, and even switch attention from one person to another.

*One qualifier: even the best hearing aids cannot entirely compensate for the ear damage associated with hearing loss. Effective communication strategies in noise are critical to functioning in background noise. Ask us more about it!

3. Wireless communication with the Oticon ConnectLine system delivers sound directly to your hearing aids from your TV, landline and mobile phones, and audio devices like music players and personal computers. This wireless connection between you and your phone, TV, etc. provides a much clearer signal that your hearing aids (or ears) can alone. If you've ever worn TV headphones, you know of which we speak!



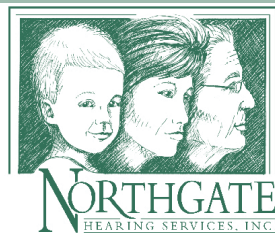
Between April 15th and 29th, we are offering \$100 off each new hearing aid purchased as a "THANK YOU" for your loyalty! ANY hearing aid purchase applies, including the Oticon Agil. Call today!

206-367-1345

(Hearing tests included with purchase of new instruments)

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Guatemala Hearing Mission Trip Update

Dr. Mercer returned from her audiology mission trip safely and with a full heart. Three audiologists from the Pacific Northwest traveled



to three areas in Guatemala, Xela, San Marcos and San Lucas Toliman on Lake Atitlan, to fit hearing impaired

children with hearing aids. This was the third trip for Dr. Mercer but her first outside of Guatemala City. The country is truly breathtaking, with green, lush mountains punctuated by stark volcanoes.

Team members fit over fifty children with hearing aids, established two new clinics for future care and continued to train three audiology technologists, all native Guatemalans, who will provide follow up care for the



children between team visits. These three individuals are incredibly dedicated and take on their new responsibilities

with great enthusiasm. Dr. Mercer's 16-year-old son, Cameron, went along as statistician and photographer. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience and is already thinking of fundraising for another trip next year for his high school Senior project.



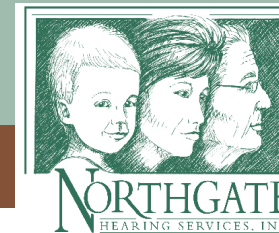
The people of Guatemala have a wonderful capacity for gratitude



while maintaining their dignity that makes them a joy to work with. Their pace of life is much slower than ours in America and they

are incredibly family oriented: one more reminder of what is important in this life.

Thanks to ALL of you who contributed to this mission. Rest assured that your gifts will continue to enrich these children's lives on a daily basis!



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The Thrills of Hearing Aid Ownership...

Do you ever think about insuring your hearing aids? These stories from our patients (names withheld to protect the innocent!) might make you reconsider..

One gentleman sheepishly brought in all the little, tiny pieces of his hearing aid after it dropped out of his pocket onto the airport tarmac and was run over by a B-52.

Another gentleman took his hearing aids off and set them down on the bench in his backyard while he fed the squirrels some peanuts. He found them the following spring buried in his garden alongside some of those nuts.

Several patients have chewed their hearing aids, mistaking them for cashews.

A large parrot plucked a hearing aid off one patient's ear.

One lady reported her hearing aid dropped off her car dashboard onto the pavement. She returned to the same parking space two days later and found it, no worse for wear.

Finally, from Dr. Gray: A farmer of few words came into the office. "Got careless." he reported. "How so?" I asked. "Put the hearing aid down while I was milking the cow and she ate it." "I guess you'll be needing a replacement then", said I. "Maybe not," he said and walked out. Two days later he phoned. "Got it back" he said. "Just waited until it came out the other end. Seems OK!"

If this article makes you rethink your need for hearing aid insurance, we can advise you about private policies, or check with your home owners insurance agent to see if you can add your hearing aids to your policy.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9:00A-12:00P,
1:00P-5:00P

Thursday
9:00A-12:00P, 1:00P-6:00P

Friday
Closed

New Blogs on our Website:

- Guatemala Trip Updates
- Your Diet Can Affect Your Hearing
- Can Smoking Cause Hearing Loss?

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