

# M & M

Mills & McKinney  
Hearing Practice



## Receiver in the ear hearing aids

**Most people want their hearing aids to be as discreet as possible. We understand these concerns at Mills & McKinney and will always do our very best to make sure that you are happy with the way the aid looks as well as sounds.**

Receiver in the ear hearing aids (or RITE aids as they are commonly known) consist of a tiny behind-the-ear aid that can be discreetly matched to skin or hair colour. This attaches to a small wire that goes over the ear and ends in a small receiver that sits inside the ear canal. The receiver can be covered either by a disposable dome, or a custom-made earpiece.



RITE aids have rapidly become the most popular hearing aid fitting worldwide, surpassing the popularity of in-the-ear hearing aids some years ago. This is for several reasons:

- They look good – much better than larger in-the-ear hearing aids in fact
- They feel comfortable – your ear canal can be left as unoccluded as possible, so you will be less troubled by changes in the sound of your voice, and if your hearing in the lower frequencies is good you can still make use of this
- They fit a wide range of hearing losses - from mild to severe
- They perform well – they provide really good high-frequency fidelity
- They are easy to get in and take out – really important as our fingers age
- They link via Bluetooth to mobile phones – you can stream voice and music to your hearing aids, and control them with a dedicated app
- They will link to compatible wireless accessories – such as a TV transmitter, or separate microphone They come in a rechargeable option – which makes changing batteries a thing of the past

The following factors should be taken into account when deciding whether a RITE style hearing aid is right for you.

## Degree of hearing loss

RITE aids will fit most degrees of hearing loss, however if your hearing loss is more severe we may need to fit a larger and more powerful receiver, and use a custom earpiece. At your assessment we will discuss various options with you, and always try to reach the most acceptable solution for you.

## Flexibility

RITE aids can be as simple or as complex as you like. Think about whether you want an aid to pop in and go, or whether you would prefer to be able to adjust the aid more. Just let your audiologist know, and they will sort out the rest for you.

If you want full control, all our RITE aids are Bluetooth compatible, allowing connection with a mobile phone and wireless accessories such as a TV listener. You can also use an app to control your RITE hearing aid. All our RITE aids also allow for multiple listening programmes.



## Blocking the ears too much

When your ears are blocked too much you get the feeling as if you are talking with your head inside a barrel. This is called the occlusion effect. Surprisingly, the better your low-tone hearing, the less your ear needs to be blocked before you get this feeling.

In-the-ear hearing aids often block your ears more than RITE aids, and if you are susceptible to the occlusion effect, you may find the sound quality unacceptable. A RITE option therefore can be a more comfortable fitting in many cases.



## Care and maintenance

Ear canals produce wax, skin debris, and moisture. The amount and rate of production of these varies between people, and some people may have far fewer problems than others. Normally these products are swept away by new skin growth, which starts near the ear-drum and grows outwards. However, if the ear canal is blocked by a hearing aid, accumulation of these products becomes more likely, and they may start to block the hearing aid.

We therefore suggest that you have your ears checked regularly for wax build-up. This can be done here at the clinic, at your GPs surgery, or if you are under and ENT surgeon, in his or her clinic.

If the receiver of the RITE hearing aid becomes blocked, then it will either stop working, or it will not work so well, and you may have to bring it in for repair.

When the hearing aid is fitted, we will give you information and equipment for the care and maintenance of your aid. Please ensure that you follow these instructions, and in particular:

- Clean and brush the receiver and dome / earpiece every time you take it out of your ear
- Check and change the domes (if you use them) regularly
- Make sure that the earpiece (if you have one) is clean
- Change the wax guard under the dome / at the end of the earpiece at least every four weeks

## Rechargeability

There is a wide range of rechargeable RITE hearing aids. Just pop them into the charger at night, and they are ready for a full day of use in the morning. Fast charge options are also available, and you will typically get 6 hours use from a 30-minute charge.



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## The Mills & McKinney Practice

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