***Tempora mutantur. .* . and hearing aids change, too**

Ludwig Moser

***Tempora mutantur*** is a Latin adage meaning "times change". In BC Rome it was known that we change also. Our increasing knowledge of the world we live in is upsetting our self-esteem. First was Copernicus, stating that we are not the center of the world. Then came Darwin, telling us that our great-great uncles were all apes. And then came Steve Jobs, who convinced us that listening to music is best by plugging in iPads.

I have been using hearing aids bilaterally since 1966. I have 104 man-ear-years complaining about hearing aids. Last October, in Nürnberg, modern high-tech Audiology was arguing about slow or fast dynamic compression of speech comprehension enhancement in noise. Forty-seven years ago, I listened to the same problems in Bad Kissingen, my first attendance to those meetings.

Has my paper the wrong title? Definitely not. Hearing aids of 2018 are marvels. They are so small. They have just a tiny switch to power them on. From here they take over. Each tells you that they are ready to serve you and then there is a 3. Gadget vibrating and telling me the status of each battery and the settings of each program. And then a warning flashes up: “Contact lost to Luki’s right hearing aid.” Now I am helpless but not hopeless. Another message flashes up: “May I help you? Just ask a question.” You guessed correctly—that voice is SIRI.

Her advice was, “Please ask the community.” Good. And it gets better. The day of a big update had arrived. It took my SE6 all night (you know Apple reduced its speed to save battery capacity). But what chaos the next morning! My 3. Gadget, theSE6, was dormant, had forgotten his sibling hearing aids. I called a friend, a real fan of gadgets, he owns a model X. His advice was, “Well when I answered my phone while driving, my model X turned the radio full blast. I had to stop my car to finish the call.”

Let’s talk about my road to have me fitted with a very modern hearing aid. You can start by taking a hearing test on your computer, clicking on a Google search for hearing aids. You will get plenty of choices. The procedure is very similar for all. They ask for your age and your profession, and then you have to answer a lot of questions. Some are well known from the different studies on benefits of hearing aids.

The next day I received mail. The result of my tests was several pages long, with a lot of tech talk, and, finally, my pure tone audiogram. There was absolutely no tone test done the last day. It was called my “typical audiogram.” It is very typical for my age group, but without the least similarity to an audiogram taken at ENT-Wüerzburg.

In my presentation I will present a cheat sheet you have to follow point-by-point with patients in need of or newly supplied with hearing aids.

The main pps sheets you can download from my SE6 in Zell.