



Case Study

Patient: G.J. 42 yr. old female

Many of the most important functions of the auditory system are based on binaural processing. Our field has a long history of emphasizing bilateral hearing aid fittings in order to capitalize on these natural abilities. However, when the patient's auditory disorder has different effects on the two ears, there may be times when an alternative fitting approach makes sense.

Background & Presentation:

G.J. was diagnosed and has been medically treated for Meniere's disease for the past 18 months. She initially presented with severe vertigo with hearing loss and tinnitus in the left ear. Approximately 1 year ago, her hearing thresholds declined in the right ear. Her vestibular symptoms have been under control for the past

6 months. Her hearing thresholds and word recognition scores have been stable for the past two months. The patient delayed amplification until she was sure the vestibular symptoms were under control. Now that balance is no longer her primary concern, she is ready for hearing aid amplification.

The patient owns a boutique-clothing store. Since the onset of her Meniere's disease she minimized her personal contact with customers. Now that her balance issues have abated, she desires a return to the more satisfying part of the job, direct contact with customers. Hearing aid cost is not an issue for G.J. Her goal at this time is to hear and understand, especially in the work environment, as well as is possible.

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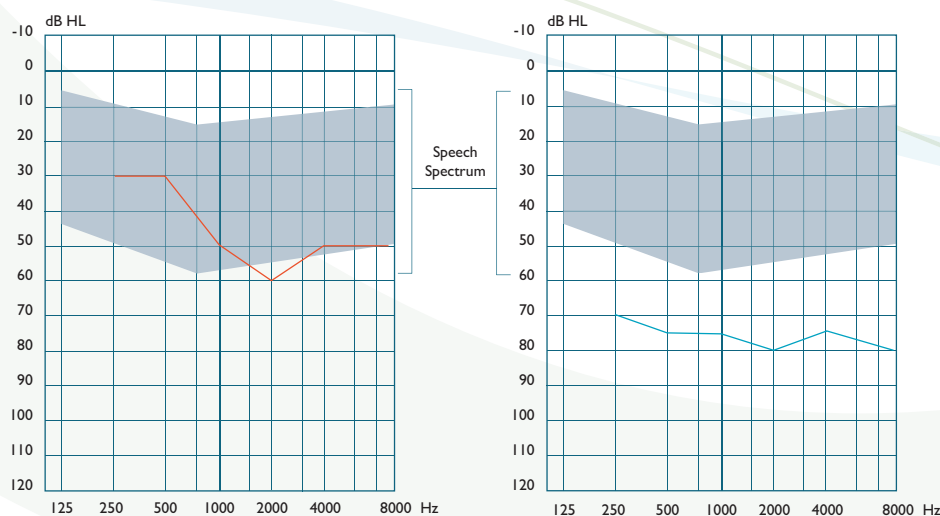


Figure 1:
The audiogram for G.J.