"Successful" aging

- Acceptance of change and loss
  - Physical
  - Psychological
  - Social
  - Economic
  - Interpersonal
- Adaptation/adjustment

How aging impacts hearing

- Physical changes
- Perceptual changes
- Cognitive changes
Sounds for Seniors: An Honest Look at Hearing Loss in the 55+ Community

Quality of Life
- Relationships
- Purposeful activity / meaningful work
- Intellectual growth / learning
- Recreation / entertainment
- Spiritual growth
- Hope / positive prospects

Factors affecting how a senior handles hearing loss
- Temperament / personality
- Perception of need
- Knowledge base

Solutions
- Amplification
- Advocacy
- Assistive listening devices
- Alternatives
Why reluctant to consider cochlear implant?

- Denial of need
- Age
- Fear of surgery risks/recovery concerns
- Lose of residual hearing/fear of failure
- Mis-information re: candidacy, costs, surgery, etc.

Why reluctant to consider cochlear implant?

- Resistance to change: comfortable w/ status quo, self-identity as HA wearer
- Fear of last resort option gone
- Unsupportive family
- Responsibilities make elective surgery not an option
- Frightened by unsuccessful stories

Resources

- National Institute on Deafness - www.nidcd.nih.gov
- Better Hearing Institute - www.betterhearing.org 1-800-327-9355
- AARP – www.aarp.org
- HEAR Now - www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org 1-800-593-5646
- Sertoma Scholarships - www.sertoma.org
- Senior survival tips - www.SeniorArk.org
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References:
Institute www.betterhearing.org