Cell Phone Tips

Using Cellular Phones with BTE Processors

Many people ask us for recommendations on a specific cellular phone that works well with a BTE sound processor; however, there are so many choices available that we have not found one cellular phone arrangement that works the same for everyone. We suggest you contact your local cellular phone vendor and ask about using demonstration models or doing an in-home test. We encourage you to use an electronic earphone, and dedicate cellular phone technology. Many BTE users use the T-Mic full time and are able to use a cellular phone simply by placing the phone in their ear in normal fashion.

Advanced Bionics offers several listening options for using a cellular phone with your BTE processor:

1. T-Mic® Microphone
2. Auditory Earhook with Telecoil Pickup Telephone Adaptor (Telecoil Pickup Telephone Adaptor)
3. Auxiliary Audio Earhook with Telecoil Pickup Telephone Adaptor and T-Coil Compatible Cellular Phone
4. Auxiliary Audio Earhook With a Custom-Made Telephone Adaptor Cable
5. T-Coil Compatible Cellular Phone Options

Other Information on Using a Cellular Phone

Audio Mixing

Audio mixing options are available on the BTE sound processors. Audio mixing allows the BTE microphone to be used while also connected directly to a T-Mic, Audex, or any external audio input. This is important so you can hear your own voice and environmental sounds in addition to the signal transmitted through the auxiliary audio input. You may need to see your audiologist to set up a program with the correct audio mixing for connecting to auxiliary audio inputs. You can also ask your audiologist to set up an audio mixing ratio of 100% auxiliary so that you hear only the sounds from the telephone.

If You Hear Buzzing on Your Cellular Phone

If you notice buzzing when using a cellular phone, you should try...

1. Try a provider that uses the CDMA digital protocol such as Verizon or Sprint or iDEN technology such as Nextel as these tend to cause the least interference.
2. Also, find the CDMA or iDEN provider that has the best network coverage in the area(s) where you expect to use the phone (e.g., home, office, other cities and places where you travel).
3. Note that the use of the CDM- digital protocol such as Verizon or Sprint or iDEN technology such as iDEN as these tend to cause the least interference.
4. Also, find the CDMA or iDEN provider that has the best network coverage in the area(s) where you expect to use the phone (e.g., home, office, other cities and places where you travel).
5. 50% or T-Mic® Microphone is with the least interference with cochlear implant.
6. Ask a cellular phone provider to see their models with reduced RF. Since 2005, the FCC requires most service providers and phone manufacturers to offer a certain percentage of cellular phone models with reduced emissions.
7. Try before you buy. Contact your local cellular phone vendor and ask about using demonstration models in the store or in-home trials. You may need to listen with several phones from several companies before you talk to your audiologist and other cochlear implant users. Ask what types of phones and cellular phone service has been successful for them in their local area.

For more information, contact the Bionic Ear Association at hear@advancedbionics.com.