

Letter to the Editor

Response to Letter to the Editor from Peck

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We would like to thank Dr. Peck for his comments regarding our recent publication “Mild-Gain Hearing Aids as a Treatment for Adults with Self-Reported Hearing Difficulties” (Roup et al, 2018). Dr. Peck’s observations regarding a potential psychological etiology for hearing difficulties among young adults represent an important avenue for consideration. Although psychological distress was not a factor considered in our study, it does represent a needed area of investigation among this population. Indeed, past research has reported associations between hearing difficulties in normal-hearing adults and symptoms of depression (Higson et al, 1994; Saito et al, 2010; Tremblay et al, 2015), high levels of anxiety (Saunders and Haggard, 1989), and emotional distress (Gopinath et al, 2012). We concur with Dr. Peck’s assertion that patients who present clinically with normal hearing and complaints of hearing difficulty should receive a thorough evaluation including a careful case history. As with any patient, it is incumbent on the audiologist to consider all factors associated with adults who present with hearing difficulties and to refer to the appropriate professional for further evaluation when necessary.

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