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Contact: Priya Kumar
Number: 732.632.1528

Think Again. You're Not too Young to Have Hearing Loss! JFK Medical Center Celebrates Better Hearing and Speech Month

Edison, NJ -- Communication is the heart and soul of human existence. Our ability to communicate allows us to build relationships and live successfully amid society. Without effective communication, however, those relationships can be severely impacted. This May, during Better Hearing and Speech Month, the Department of Speech and Audiology at JFK Medical Center is committed to raising public awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the communication disorders through a series of community events.

The lack of speech and hearing separates one from the human connection of communication. A disability may isolate an individual, but even mild communication impairments may limit progress at home, school, work, and in the community. But they do not have to be endured. Proper treatment can eliminate or minimize problems. The earlier the intervention, the better the prognosis. "Hearing loss has become increasingly common in the United States due to noise exposure among young people and the aging of baby boomers. Better Hearing and Speech Month is an important means of reaching those reluctant to have their hearing tested," says Virginia Toth, AuD, CCC, Manager of the Audiology Programs, JFK Medical Center.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), more than 14 million Americans have an identified communication disorder -- an individual's ability to receive or express information. Estimates may be closer to 40 million when those who have never received help are factored in. That number includes people in all stages of life, but those most likely to be affected are the most vulnerable in our society: older adults and the very young. In fact, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) approximates that 32.5 million Americans experience some degree of hearing loss, of which 22 million are affected due to exposure to loud sounds thanks to ear buds, headphones, and those humongous sub-woofers in cars. Let's face it...it's a noisy world.

You (or a loved one) may have a hearing loss if you:

- frequently asks people to repeat themselves
- often turns his/her ear toward a sound to hear it better
- understands people better when wearing glasses or looking directly at their faces
- loses place in group conversations
- keeps the radio or TV volume at a level that others say is too loud
- has pain or ringing in the ears
- notices that some sounds remain clear while others may seem fuzzy

Hearing disabilities may present as problems with acuity (hearing) or processing (understanding what you hear). At JFK, "we are determined to eradicate the stigma of admitting a hearing problem. Many people wait too long before seeking help for a hearing loss," Dr. Toth adds. The Department of Speech and Audiology at JFK will once again kick off Better Speech and Hearing Month with a series of free seminars on hearing loss and disorders. Dr. Virginia Toth and our expert audiologists will be on hand to discuss unique topics of auditory processing disorders and inspect the inside of the ear canal. Light refreshments will be served.

Auditory Processing Disorders Free Seminar: When the Brain Can't Hear

Children with auditory processing problems may have a difficult time processing sounds, which then affects their ability to listen. Parents and their children are invited to come learn about the signs and symptoms of Auditory Processing Disorders as well as strategies for classroom and at home.

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2009
Time: 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Location: JFK Medical Center – Auditorium
65 James Street, Edison, NJ

Want To See The Inside Of Your Ear Canal?

Attendees will have the opportunity to take a look inside the human ear as members from the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology perform Video Otoscopy. Participants will be entered in a raffle to win a gift basket!

Date: May 11th – May 15th (Monday – Friday)
Time: 12pm – 1pm
Location: JFK Medical Center – Cafeteria (1st Floor)
65 James Street, Edison, NJ

What Did You Say? Am I Loosing My Hearing or Are You Just Mumbling? Free Hearing Seminar

When hearing loss occurs, one can loose his/her ability to maintain vital social connections with family and friends. Come learn the symptoms and causes of hearing loss as well as treatment options.

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2009
Time: 6pm – 7pm
Location: JFK Medical Center – Auditorium
65 James Street, Edison, NJ

Use the help of JFK's speech/language pathologists and audiologists. Ask the questions you want answered. Allow us to help find the information you need to know. ***To register for our free seminars or to learn more about the services and programs offered through the Department of Speech and Audiology at JFK, please call 732.321.7063.***

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JFK Medical Center, an affiliate of Solaris Health System, is a 535-bed full-service, acute care hospital, consisting of The Anthony M. Yelensics Community Hospital and the adjacent JFK Johnson Rehabilitative Institute. Located in the heart of Edison, NJ, it has remained at the forefront of quality care in the region since its inception in 1967. Today, JFK accommodates more than 20,000 admissions, 3,000 births and 50,000 Emergency Room visits on a yearly basis. The Medical Center features a complete array of services, including general surgery, emergency medicine, mental health, orthopedics, maternity and pediatric care. It is home to the New Jersey Neuroscience Institute, Regional Cancer Center, Haven Hospice, JFK Imaging Center and the JFK Family Practice Center. Affiliated with UMDNJ -Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Seton Hall University School of Graduate Medical Education, JFK offers residency programs in physical and rehabilitation medicine, family practice and dentistry.