

Millions Of Americans Suffer From Untreated Hearing Loss

Diagnosing And Treating Single Sided Deafness

(NAPSA)—A number of Americans with hearing loss can treat their condition, but don't.

That's the finding of a recent study that estimated nearly nine million U.S. households are home to at least one person who is com-



Many with Single Sided Deafness can be treated.

pletely deaf in one ear (Single Sided Deafness, or SSD). Even more alarming, one-third of those people have not sought treatment.

"These figures amplify the importance of deaf awareness by underscoring the grossly under-reported prevalence of SSD," said Dr. Jack Wazen, of the Lenox Hill/Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in New York. Wazen says the first step in getting people to seek treatment for SSD is helping them understand it. Here's a breakdown:

Treating SSD

The FDA recently cleared a medical device to treat SSD. Called the BAHA[®] system, this technology has three components: a small titanium fixture implanted in the skull under local anesthesia during a short outpatient surgical procedure; a small sound processor; and an external abutment to attach and remove the device as desired (see illustration). Together, the system transfers natural sound directly to the inner ear using direct bone conduction. The system is currently being worn by approximately 20,000 people worldwide with a 94 percent success rate.

About SSD

The BAHA system is an appropriate treatment for patients with SSD that can be caused by, but not limited to, head trauma, viral infection, or acoustic neuroma tumor surgery.

For more information, visit www.entific.com or call 1-877-BAHA-4-ME.