

Why do my hearing aid domes fall out?

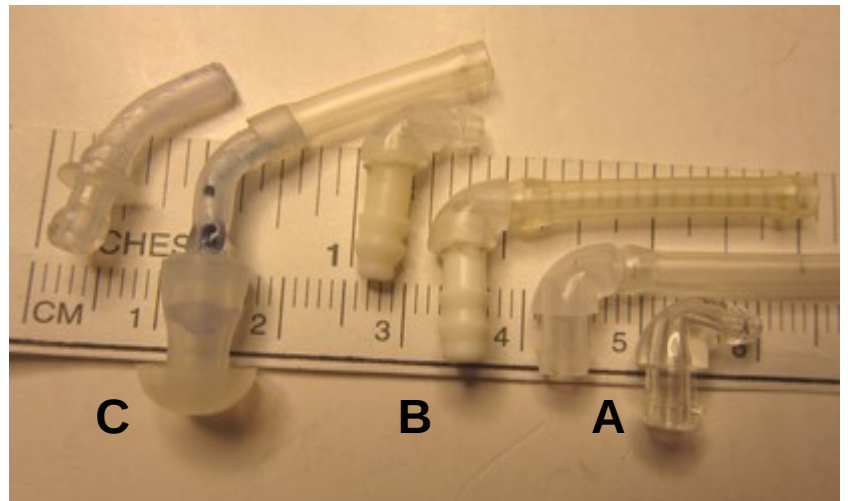
I've been experimenting with the typical mushroom type domes. There were three different size domes supplied with my aid. The medium and small sizes fit me. But the small size is much more comfortable. However, they work their way out of the ear canal, especially while chewing. (Actually, the medium size also falls out, even though it is tighter.)

By seating the dome farther out on the standard right angle elbow ("A"), the extra depth improved retention somewhat. So, I made some extended elbows ("B"). The extra depth kept my left dome in place (but it was a little uncomfortable). The right dome still fell out with jaw motion.

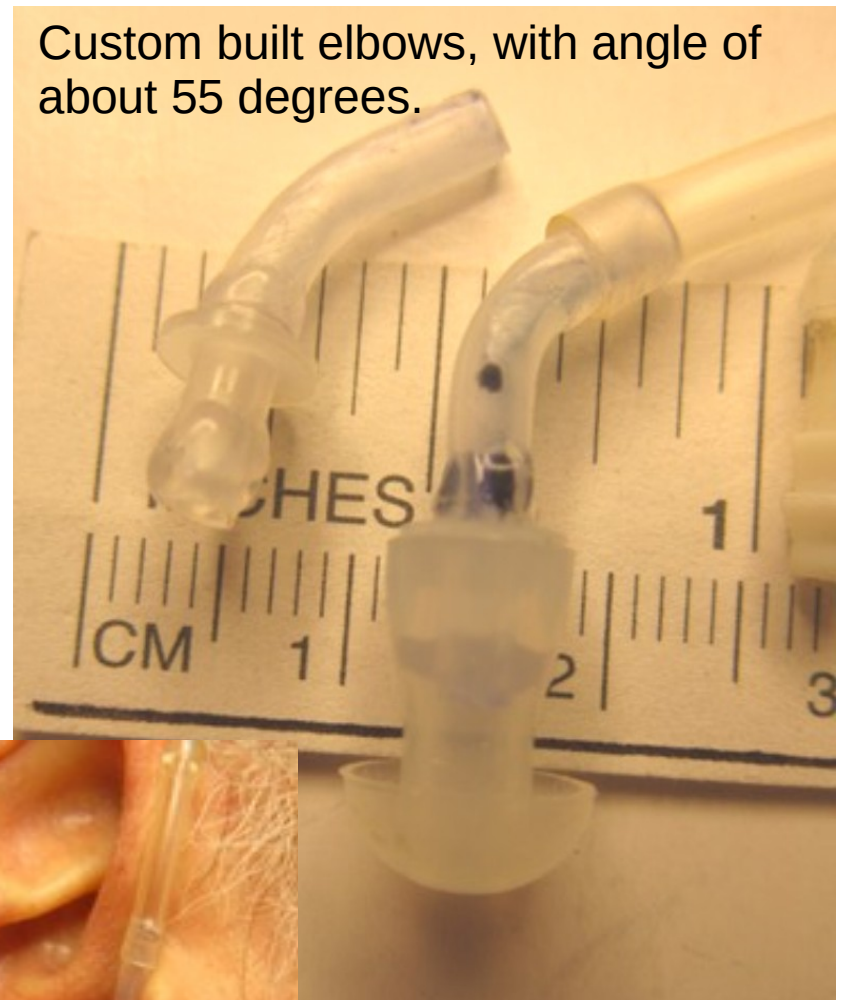
It seemed that a right angle elbow ("A" or "B") was not the correct angle to match my ear canal. Therefore, I built some custom elbows ("C") from empty plastic ball point pen inserts. The "flare" for retaining the dome was made with ultra-violet set super-glue. A small plastic washer was also glued in place as a seat for the dome (to prevent the dome from sliding up the elbow when inserted in the ear).

Now, the domes for both ears stay in place, and there is no discomfort on either side.

Question: Where can a person find commercially available elbows similar to the ones I built (with an angle of about 55 degrees, rather than 90 degrees)? Or, perhaps in a variety of angle configurations?



Custom built elbows, with angle of about 55 degrees.



Presumably, hardware that provides a better match to a person's ear canal angle might help other folks retain their domes, too.

Thanks for listening.