

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

May 6, 2010

Local ENT Doctor Offers Tips for Preventing Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

Dr. Duane J. Taylor Honors May as Better Hearing and Speech Month

Bethesda, Maryland – Nationwide, 10 million Americans suffer from irreversible noise-induced hearing loss, with 30 million more exposed to dangerous noise levels each day. For children and teenagers, one of the simplest ways that they can acquire noise-induced hearing loss is by listening to loud music. To raise awareness of this common and preventable health issue, Duane J. Taylor M.D. honors May as Better Hearing and Speech Month.

A 2009 survey by the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (AAO - HNS), which represents ear, nose and throat doctors, found that 4 in 5 Americans are concerned about hearing loss due to ear buds. The survey showed that hearing loss is a top medical concern among parents, higher than concerns about asthma, food allergies, or exposure to tobacco smoke. More than 90 percent of parents are very concerned about hearing loss in their children.

In recognition of Better Hearing and Speech Month, Dr. Duane J. Taylor M.D., medical director of Le Visage ENT & Facial Plastic Surgery recommends these tips to ensure that parents know how to protect their families from noise-induced hearing loss:

- Encourage your children to take breaks from long periods of listening to music.
- Give your child ear plugs or ear muffs if they are involved in a loud activity.
- Remind your child to turn down the sound of their music.
- Teach your child to avoid the noise (walk away) if they feel it is too loud.

For children and teenagers, some activities that can risk damaging hearing include: playing with noisy toys, band instruments, and video games; listening to personal music players and stereos at high volumes; attending concerts and movies; operating lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and power tools; and riding off-road vehicles and snowmobiles. As a general rule, noise may damage your hearing if you are at arm's length from it, or have to shout to make yourself heard.

If you are concerned about possible hearing loss in your child, have them examined by an otolaryngologist – head and neck surgeon (also known as an ENT doctor). For more information about protecting your hearing, please visit www.levisageface.com or www.entnet.org. Le Visage ENT & Facial Plastic Surgery LLC, located in Bethesda, Maryland specializes in the evaluation and treatment of Ear, Nose and Throat disorders and Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for patients in Maryland, Washington, DC and northern Virginia. The medical director, Duane J. Taylor M.D., is board certified in Otolaryngology, and is on the Board of Governors and a Board of Directors of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He is on the hospital staff of Holy Cross Hospital, Suburban Outpatient Surgery Center and Washington Hospital Center.

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