

Editorial

The genesis of this journal lies in the reality, that, while a ban on smoking has served to reduce if not eliminate health-related problems in the west, it has not impacted countries like India very much. This is because a significant amount of tobacco is chewed rather than smoked, by a vast majority of the population in India and in the Indian subcontinent. Furthermore, there are other substances like the Areca nut and betel nut which are extensively used. These are known carcinogens. Thus, India will have the dubious distinction of having a burgeoning number of persons who are at risk of developing health-related problems, most notably from cancer of the head and neck.

While India will have a substantial amount of patients suffering from problems like cancer, stroke and other related illnesses, it behooves us to also have in place adequate measures to cope up with these problems in a meaningful way. A meaningful way would imply not only treatment once a disease process has set in but also with measures to prevent them. These are as yet not in place. The International Journal of Head and Neck Surgery attempts to bring out international consciousness to our unique situation with a view to problem solving, lateral thinking, out of the box thinking or whatever you wish to call it. We wish to draw on western expertise (as they have been there, done that and sometimes moved on) and Indian experience to help prevent and, if possible, eliminate these health problems that eat at the heart of a country like India and the subcontinent.

While oncology is at the heart of head and neck surgery we wish to also include other disorders and treatment modalities that make up the multidimensionality of the specialty.

The first issue of this journal adequately illustrates this.



Chris de Souza

MS DORL DNB FACS

Visiting Assistant Professor in Otolaryngology

SUNY Brooklyn, New York, USA

LSUHSC Shreveport, USA

ENT and Skull Base Surgeon, Tata Memorial Hospital

Lilavati Hospital and Holy Family Hospital

Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Editor-in-Chief