

Editorial

At the outset I would like to wish all the readers, a very happy and prosperous 2010. I am pleased to write an editorial for the maiden issue of the International journal of Head and Neck surgery which is being launched on 1st January, 2010. This is one of the first international, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, dedicated Head and Neck journal coming from India, a country which hosts the highest burden of Head-Neck diseases in the world. Undoubtedly, cancer is the most challenging head and neck disease in the current world.

Head-neck cancers comprise of a diverse list of organs with an even diverse list of pathologies inflicting them. This makes the management of head and neck cancers one of the most complicated amongst all sites in the human body. These are amongst the commonest cancers (roughly one third) in the developing world and less than 10% in the western world.

The high prevalence of head-neck cancers is mainly because of tobacco, HPV, EBV, radiation exposure, UV rays, ETC. Considering that most head and neck squamous cell cancers have known etiologies and even well known progression models, they are largely preventable cancers. This makes Prevention and Screening as exciting areas in head and neck oncology. At the same time management of head and neck cancers is a complex problem considering its proximity to several important organs of the body.

In the last few decades we have seen several studies (clinical as well as translational) that have dramatically changed the management of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Targeted therapy have opened a whole new world which is yet to be fully exploited. Most of these advances have led to functional organ preservation, better quality of life and superior loco-regional control. However, significant improvement in survival remains a distant dream which we are sure will be accomplished in years to come. There is a virtual explosion of information that is available to head and neck oncologist of the current era. There is an urgent need to professionally collate this information and present it in a evidence-based format, such as review articles, debates, guest editorials, etc. At the same time, a platform needs to be created for the research community to showcase their pioneering works with the international readers. We realize that it is imperative to have one more head-neck journal to allow a greater publication avenue for the head-neck community.

The sole aim of this journal is to produce an international head and neck journal that will provide most up-to-date information on topics related to head neck cancers and disorders relating to the head and neck. We will offer an online submission facility and we promise to maintain a fast reviewing process and editorial decisions so that authors do not face any inconvenience due to delays. We are fortunate to have put together an impressive editorial board and a panel of reviewers. We look forward to a first of its kind world class head neck journal from India.

I finish by quoting Abraham Lincoln- Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.



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