
Editorial

After much thought, we decided to incorporate a subdivision of pediatric head and neck surgery in the IJHNS. We decided to do this to emphasize the importance of understanding the impact of what we do in terms of surgery. Children are not young adults. Nowhere is it clear that the impact of surgery can dramatically improve the quality of life or have calamitous results. Pediatric patients have to spend the rest of their lives coping with the results of our intervention. Therefore, we need to carefully consider what we need to do for our pediatric patients before embarking on treatment modalities. For example, radiation given in childhood can result in a malignancy in another area, notably the thyroid. Children are often silent and helpless participants in the care of their illnesses. The caregivers of these patients need to be carefully counselled and advised patiently so that the beneficial effect of treatment can be enhanced and the negative impact can be minimized. This is time consuming and often requires multiple visits and repeated reminders to stay the course of treatment. This requires the participation of numerous medical personnel from different medical disciplines. All this is done with the view of making sure that the child has the best possible outcome of head and neck surgery. With this goal in mind, we decided to incorporate pediatric head and neck surgery as a unique and upcoming, emerging discipline in the International Journal of Head and Neck Surgery.

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