

Editorial

We, at International Journal of Head and Neck Surgery (IJHNS) have attempted to bring forth a choice of literature in head and neck. This issue of IJHNS comes after a few dedicated issues about specific topics. In this issue, we bring an interesting array of world literature on a host of topics in head and neck. While the incidence of head-neck cancers is on the rise, the disease specific survivals seem to be approaching a plateau. Hence the need for a deeper insight into the epidemiology of head neck cancers in general, and oral cancers in particular. An important etiological cause in South Asia is submucous fibrosis, which is overwhelmingly due to the locally prevalent custom of areca-nut chewing. While the almost ubiquitous prevalence of this entity in parts of the Indian subcontinent is well-documented; its emergence among juveniles and adolescents is disconcerting, and is highlighted in a study in this issue. Concomitant efforts at identifying other risk factors or associated factors are ongoing; and the negative study in this issue, of correlation between lipid profile and head-neck cancers is an example. Elsewhere in this issue, readers will also find a report on the feasibility and utility in laryngeal surgery of the 'Flex' robotic system, which is a novel flexible robotic platform. Also featured is a series on orofacial sarcomas from Tanzania. In another article, the authors attempt to find an association between chronic non-specific lymphocytic thyroiditis and papillary thyroid carcinoma; however, in the editors' opinion this indicates a mere association and not causality. Finally, we round off this issue with article on supraclavicular artery flap; and this journal's continued commitment toward publishing pertinent case reports.

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