

Editorial

The Association of Phonosurgeons of India, who officially sponsors the International Journal of Phonosurgery and Laryngology, is growing by leaps and bounds. The last conference was held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha and was well-attended. Prof. Paul Castellanos from USA was the international faculty. Several national faculties joined him to make the precon workshop and the conference a grand success. The next conference is slated to be at Nagpur.

The subspecialty of phonosurgery and laryngology is being taken up by a number of junior colleagues and it was refreshing to see new faces at Bhubaneswar. This young brigade will carry on the tradition of passing on the mantle. We would like to have as many centers of excellence to propagate the specialty and improve the patient care.

Organ-specific dedicated specialists in India are few and far apart. But most of the specialists are those who do general otolaryngology with a special interest in laryngology. Now, at least 10 dedicated voice centers are available in India. But dedicated voice clinics are not many in medical colleges.

Early days practice of laryngology was confined to mirrors and traditional laryngoscopes. Voice got second priority where the airway and aspiration are considered more important. Slowly voice preservation also became a challenge and technology stepped in the form of operating microscopes and LASERS. Gadgets of course made laryngology more interesting and at the same time physicians shy away because of prohibitively expensive machines may it be high-speed digital photography, stroboscopes, chip on the tip flexible scopes, high definition endo cameras and LASERS.

Laryngology is no longer excising vocal nodules but encompasses a wider playing field dealing with voice and speech, swallowing and aspiration and airway. A practising laryngologist deals with obstructive lesions of the airway, management of neurolaryngological issues, swallowing abnormalities causing airway problems. The field is slowly widening and expanding. Dr. Jayakumar coined a term “Phagosurgery” which deals with the swallowing problems something akin to phonosurgery.

The future looks bright and impressive for a laryngologist...



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