Rhinology Past–Present–Future

V.P. Sood,

703, Surya Kiran, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi -110 001.

PAST

Rhinology the link between Otology and Laryngology is not only of great importance to both, but apparently the most ancient of the medical specialities.

The most noteworthy contribution in ancient surgery in rhinology was the reconstruction of the noses by using cheek and forehead flaps. Atharva Veda 1000 B.C. in ancient Hindu civilization gives information regarding diseases of ear, nose and throat. Susruta Samhita a surgical treatise in post Vedic period mentioned 24 ducts in nose and gave an account of nasal repair using cheek flaps.

The plastic surgery suffered a severe setback in India with the coming up of Budhist and Jain philosophies of non-violence. The intellectuals of old times abandoned anything related to blood and bloodshed and left the art of medicine and healing with the servants of old surgeons. This art of healing was passed on as family secrets and trade through generations. The rhinoplasty had been practised in India in the past exclusively by a caste of potters (Kumhaars) and this art was generally passed on by the fathers to their sons for centuries.

The most noteworthy contribution on ancient Indian surgery in rhinology was the reconstruction of new noses by using cheek and forehead flaps. The Hindus were thus originators of modern rhinoplasty.

The publication of Cowasjee's nasal reconstruction by an Indian potter using forehead flap in Gentleman's magazine in 1794, generated

tremendous interest and paved the way for corrective rhinoplasty in Europe and U.S.A.

PRESENT

Rhinology had been a neglected area in otorhinolaryngology till quarter of century ago in our country when septoplasty and corrective rhinoplastic surgery were introduced and made popular in our upcoming E.N.T. speciality. I also had to struggle hard to change the concept of submucous resection of the septum to septoplasty. In an attempt to promote Rhinology to international standard in our country All India Rhinology Society was founded in 1986.

The rapid development of endoscopic methods in rhinologic surgery has been possible by the fiberoptic technique in connection with high-quality video representation and computer-tomographic imaging. In rhinology, there has been a worldwide adoption of the technique in diagnostics and treatment. In the beginning, the technique was founded on concepts developed after many years of endoscopic investigation and clinical observations by W. Messerklinger and coworkers. Nasal and paranasal sinus endoscopy proved to be a valuable diagnostic contribution to rhinology. Endoscopic sinus surgery (ESS) has also proved suitable for treatment, not only of rhinologic disorders but also proved for some ophthalmologic and neurosurgical conditions. When properly used, ESS causes much less morbidity than does treatment with older "conventional" surgical methods.

Endoscopic sinus surgery was also introduced in our country a decade ago considering the global trend. Endoscopic sinus surgery has drawn the

attention and interest of many of our colleagues all over the country and a Sinus Endoscopy Society has already been formed this year.

It is very encouraging to see that in most of the teaching centres and even in private hospitals our colleagues after having attended the courses and workshops in rhinoplasty and endoscopic sinus surgery have started doing these procedures. Not only that, now the trend is already catching fast to organize the courses and workshops to boost up C.M.E. programmes by some of the colleagues who are interested in Rhinology in their own centres in big cities. With the availability of closed circuit T.V., Video tapes and C.D. now the teaching and learning have become easy and more effective.

At present we are not lagging behind in our country in any area of rhinology comparing the international advancement. I have seen youngsters and budding otorhinolaryngologists crystallizing their interest either in otology or rhinology or Head and Neck Oncology right from the beginning of their career.

FUTURE

India is turning its wheels of progress to enter

the beginning of new century for a better tomorrow by opening its windows to the rest of the world.

We need a vision to grow and excel in medical field in general and Rhinology in particular. Most of the rhinologic surgical procedures can be done under L.A. and one does not need sophisticated expensive instruments. The indigenously made good quality surgical instruments are available in our country now.

It is heartening to observe that interest in Rhinology amongst residents and younger generation of E.N.T. surgeons is growing fast.

The fast growing technology and availability of latest technical information through internet even at smaller places and with the help of pre recorded video cassettes and C.D., any E.N.T. surgeon posted even in district centre or practising in smaller places, can perform rhinologic procedures with confidence.

The learning facilities in Rhinology is becoming easier due to increasing number of courses and workshops available in various centres of our country. Day is not far when most of us will only be practising Rhinology.

COURSE NEWS

23rd Temporal Bone Microsurgery Workshop 21st Sept – 24th Sept, 1998.

Temporal Bone Workshop will deal with live demonstration of microsurgical techniques viz. myringoplasty, tympanoplasty, mastoidectomy, stapedectomy, facial nerve decompression and endolymphatic sac surgery.

Cadaveric dissection will be given to 20 participants only, on first come first serve basis.

Registration Fee :

Temporal Bone Microsurgery including cadaveric temporal bone dissection. Rs.1200/-

Hostel type of accommodation may be provided to the limited participants.

For further correspondence please write to :

Dr. S.B. Ogale, Prof. & Head, Dept. of ENT, K.E.M. Hospital, Parel, Mumbai-400 012,
Phone Nos- Res. : 4124329; Off : 4136051, Ext. ENT Dept.