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CONTENTS

From the desk of the Editor

Main Article

- Recurrent Acute Tonsillitis - The 'Core' Issue 1
Debasish Guha, Shaoni Sanyal, Chayan Bhattacharyya, Abhijit Santra, Swagatam Banerjee, Saumendra Nath Bandyopadhyay
- Community Awareness - A Key to the Early Detection of Head and Neck Cancer 7
Ajay Manickam, Jayanta Saha, Debangshu Ghosh, Shaswati Sengupta, Debabrata Biswas, Sumit Kumar Basu, Satish Kumar, Souradeep Ray
- Effect of Canalplasty on Outcome of Results in Type I Tympanoplasty 15
Ajay Mallick, Vijay Bhalla, Ravi Roy
- Prevalence and Management of Otitis Media with Effusion Amongst the School Going Children of a Rural Area in Puducherry 21
Sharath Babu K, Jayagar Prabakaran, Shankar Radhakrishnan

Invited Article

- Vertigo, Can It Be Redefined? 29
Bhabani Kumar Choudhury

Case Report

- An Arrow Penetrating the Globe and the Sinonasal Complex – A Case Report 32
Richard Narjinary, Saikat Samaddar, Sanjoy Ghosh, Saumendra Nath Bandyopadhyay
- A Rare and Unusual Cause of Epistaxis 36
Ajay Mallick, Vijay Bhalla, Ravi Roy
- Large Neurilemmoma of Buccal Mucosa in a Child – A Rare Entity 39
Sirshak Dutta, Neeraj Aggarwal, Avijit Choudhury, Ramanuj Sinha
- Unusual Presentation of Granulomatosis with Polyangitis (Wegener's Granulomatosis) 43
Anirban Ghosh, Somnath Saha, Sarbani Chattopadhyay

Letter to the Editor

- An Uncommon Experience During Removal of a Foreign Body from the Ear of a Child 47
Sanjoy Kumar Ghosh, Abir Chaudhury

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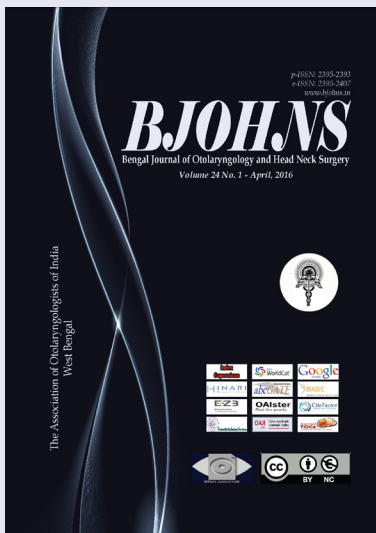
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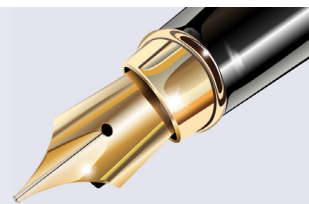
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From the Desk of the Editor



Dear Members,

The medical fraternity is very much concerned about the ethical aspects of research and publication. The increased detection of the presence of spurious data in research reports during the last decade and the tendency of unauthorised copying from others' publications have put the credibility of scientific medical literature into question.

I thought it prudent to discuss the issue after detecting incidents of major plagiarism in a number of manuscripts submitted for consideration of publication in our journal.

Wikipedia defines plagiarism as the “wrongful appropriation” and “stealing and publication” of another author’s “language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions” and the representation of them as one’s own original work. Plagiarism is not only limited to unauthorised incorporation of material from other publications or plagiarism of idea, but self-plagiarism, collusion and patchwriting have also been recognised as the other forms of the same malady.

The researchers and academicians are under enormous pressure to publish more to maintain their positions and may have very little time at their disposal. Some such resultant articles, written under stress, end up with substantial parts of the data and text lifted from other publications.

Plagiarism is definitely not limited to medical literature. It has reached such an alarming level that the Nature Publishing Group reported in 2010 that they had to reject 23% of the submissions on account of plagiarism. The prevalence of plagiarism in medical literature has been estimated to be in the range of 11-19% in different reports.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that plagiarism is considered as academic dishonesty or fraud, even if it is unintentional (accidental) and carries the same legal or financial penalties as an intentional or deliberate plagiarism.

Plagiarism is detrimental to the reputation of a journal and may even cost the author his entire career. I would recommend the authors to follow the COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) guidelines on publication ethics for writing their articles. They may also utilize any of the numerous software based plagiarism detecting services, which are available on the internet to avoid unintentional plagiarism.

It is our shared responsibility to ensure publication of only those articles, which are free from the scourge of plagiarism. Let us join hands to make the medical literature authentic and reliable.

With best wishes,

Dr Saumendra Nath Bandyopadhyay
Editor,
Bengal Journal of Otolaryngology and Head Neck Surgery



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