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CONTENTS

From the desk of the Editor

Main Article

Paediatric Type I Cartilage Tympanoplasty with or without Concomitant Adeno-tonsillectomy – An Institutional Experience 89

Santanu Dutta, Soumya Ghatak, Somnath Saha

Hospital Based Study of Traumatic Neck Injuries: A Decision Making Approach 98

Abdullah Musleh

A Comparative Study of the Effects of Anterior Nasal Packing versus Trans-Septal Suturing in Post-Septoplasty Patients 103

Prakash N S, Shreyas K, Puneeth P J, Nishtha Sharma, Veena Prabhakaran

Clinical Assessment of Sensorineural Hearing Loss among Diabetes Mellitus Patients 112

Raveendra P Gadag, Puneeth S Nayak, Tejaswini JS

Conventional versus Flap Tracheostomy: Operative Simplicity, Stomal Care, Complications 120

Diptanshu Mukherjee, Saikat Samaddar, Titas Kar

Cochlear Otosclerosis: An Undiagnosed Cause of Progressive Sensorineural Hearing Loss 127

Asish Kumar Lahiri, Anandita Gupta, Rakesh Vohra, Shalabh Sharma, Satinder Singh

Outcome of Post-Operative Mastoid Cavity Obliteration with Autologous Adipose Tissue 138

Rabi Hembrom, Satadal Mondal, Indranil Sen, Amit Chakrabarti, Rupam Sinha, Tapas Kumar Mahata, Aritra Bhattacharya, Swagato Roy

Manifestations of Tuberculosis in Ear, Nose, Throat, Head and Neck Region – A Retrospective Study 144

Vandana P Thorawade, S. A. Jaiswal, Seema Ramlakhan Gupta

Outcomes of Swallowing Rehabilitation in Patients with Dysphagia: A Retrospective Study 151

Anindita Arun Banik

Impact of Adenotonsillectomy on Weight Gain in Children 157

Yogeesh B S, Savithiri Arumugam, Nagaraj Maradi

Our Experience

Diagnostic Accuracy of FNAC Diagnosed Benign Thyroid Lesions Compared with Post-Operative Histopathology Results 161

Santosh UP, Shreelakshmi V, Sanjay VC

Analysis of Microbes and their Sensitivity Patterns in Chronic Otitis Media in West Bengal 166

Sanjoy Ghosh, Swagatam Banerjee, Puranjay Saha, Biswajit Sikder

Contd.

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CONTENTS

Case Series

- Eagle Syndrome - An Entity Often Misdiagnosed 172
Puneeth S Nayak, Anil Kumar S Harugop, Paramita Debnath, Prashant H Patil

Case Report

- Hyperkinetic Dysarthria with Spasmodic Torticollis 177
Susmi Pani, Shruti Kabra, Shilpi Chakraborty, Indranil Chatterjee
- Synchronous Buccal Carcinoma and Laryngeal Carcinoma-
A Rare Presentation 182
Ishita Sen, Debangshu Ghosh, Goutam Guha
- A Novel Account of the 'Forgotten Disease' 187
Saikat Samaddar, Titas Kar, Rahul Sarkar, Saumendra Nath Bandyopadhyay

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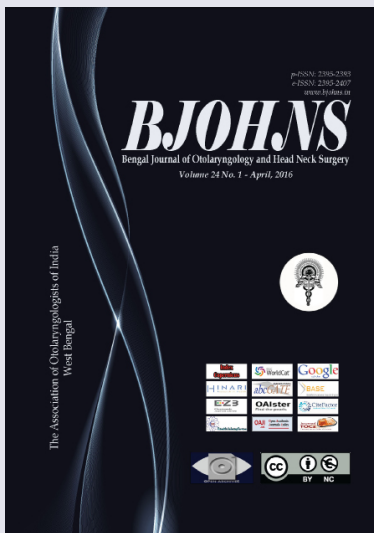
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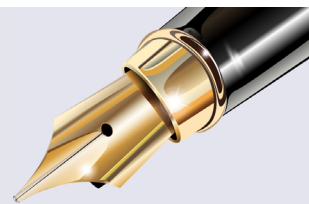
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From the Desk of the Editor



The Board of Governors in supersession of the Medical Council of India has, in its recent amendments in the 'Minimum Qualifications for Teachers in Medical Institutions Regulations, 1998', tried to rectify some of the aberrations that had crept in to the previous notification. These amendments have made the basic courses on medical education and biomedical research mandatory for the medical teachers in addition to prescribing some major changes in the criteria for publications for appointment and promotions of teachers in medical institutions in India.

The number of publications required for promotions has been reduced to 1 for Associate Professor and 3 for a Professor. This would reduce the rush for publication and may provide an impetus for quality. Research projects will also be considered for promotion to the post of Associate professor, in lieu of publication in journals, provided the teacher is either a Principal or Co-Principal (P1/Co P1) Investigator in that research project. Such research projects has to be funded by a national research body such as Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Science & Technology (DST) or Department of Bio Technology (DBT).

The revised basic course in medical education aims to train the teachers with a wide range of topics encompassing all the aspects of medical education. A teacher needs to participate in a course conducted under supervision of either the nodal/regional centre that caters to the medical college, the teacher is employed with.

The basic course in biomedical research is conducted by the Ministry of Education through the web portal 'SWAYAM', which is also available on Android and iOS platforms. The candidate has to score at least 50% marks in the examination after completing 23 modules of research methodology.

A transitory period of two years has been offered from the date of notification (12 February, 2020) for smooth transition to the new system. The college can appoint or promote to the posts of Associate Professor or Professor, based on the previous criteria up to February, 2022.

The types of articles to be considered, now includes original papers and meta-analysis, systematic reviews and case series. The first three authors or the corresponding author will get recognition for the publication. The new directive has sought to check mushrooming of predatory journals by reducing the quantity of publications required and raising the bar for the quality of journals to choose from. Publications in the journals indexed with Medline, Pubmed Central, Citation index (not Indian Citation Index), Sciences Citation index, Embase, Scopus, Directory of Open access journals (DoAJ) only will be considered to be appropriate and I take the opportunity to advise teachers to ignore lure of the false claims to avoid the trap of the predatory journals and engage themselves in meaningful and quality research.

Dr Saumendra Nath Bandyopadhyay
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