

Guest Editorial

Vertigo still remains the most challenging symptom for treating physician and patient alike. The clinician has the herculean task of interpreting the patients' symptom and correlating it with the findings of a physical examination. Patients will very often use various terms in an interchangeable, confusing fashion without realizing the implications and impact it will have for an accurate diagnosis. The onus, therefore, lies on the clinician to uncover, layer by layer, through skillful questioning and shrewd history taking to understand precisely what the patient is experiencing. Thus, vertigo calls for a thorough understanding of the terms the patient uses and the physician will then need to reframe them into scientific terms. The physician must then need to verify it through a sound meticulous physical examination. The physician who treats vertigo will know that vertigo is a symptom and not a diagnosis. This symptom can emanate from disorders encompassing the eyes, the ears, the musculoskeletal system, endocrine system, psychogenic disorders and from the brain itself. Keeping this complex interaction between these multiple systems in mind, it will then be realized that different medical disciplines will need to be involved to determine which of these systems is the cause. This requires thoroughness of a very high order, meticulous attention to detail and a vast encyclopedia of knowledge to uncover the probable cause. Even then, discovering the cause may be difficult for the causative factor may have faded away and left no trace of its passage other than the symptom of vertigo. This is often a cause of frustration to doctor and patient alike.



In trying to uncover the cause with a view to treat and prevent further recurrences, the otologist will need to know that this involves team work involving other allied disciplines. The otologist looks primarily at vertigo, tinnitus, hearing loss, otorrhea, facial nerve deficits, trauma to the head as indicators that the ear and the vestibular system is the likely cause. The investigative tools to investigate the cause of vertigo are myriad and vary from the simple to the sophisticated and their interpretations require considerable skill and experience.

This journal helps in adding to the literature on vertigo by simplifying this complex problem. It avoids the pitfalls of oversimplification by presenting material in a systematic, organized and scholarly manner. All the problems that I mentioned earlier are dealt in a way that serves to remind and alert the reader on how to avoid these dangers. The articles are detailed and the material is up-to-date and is current. In an era, where the very existence of Meniere's disease and Meniere's syndrome are being questioned, the material in this journal is lucid and enlightening. This journal is an important milestone on the road to understand, evaluate, treat and prevent vertigo. I congratulate the authors for this excellent effort and I am sure that those who will read this journal will be considerably enlightened.

Prof MV Kirtane

Prof Emeritus Seth GS Medical College

Hon. Surgeon at KEM Hospital

Hon. Consulting ENT Surgeon at PD Hinduja National Hospital

Hon. ENT Consultant to his Excellency the Governor of Maharashtra

Hon. ENT Consultant at Prince Aly Khan Hospital

Mumbai, Maharashtra, India