Multidisciplinary Team Work is Necessary for the Optimization of Clinical Effectiveness in Otorhinolaryngology: Implications from a Case Paradigm

Multidisipliner Takım Çalışması Kulak Burun Boğazı Branşında Klinik Etkinliğin Optimizasyonu için Gereklidir: Bir Olgu Örneği

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The hospital either as an asclepeion, a monastery, or even a modern university institution has always been the place where every socioeconomic group has sought healthcare (1). However, the modern orientation toward a patient-centered healthcare necessitated the maximization of clinical effectiveness through multidisciplinary team (MDT) work. MDT comprises a group of healthcare professionals of varied disciplines and roles but complementary experience, qualifications, and skills who work together toward the common goal of providing optimal care for a patient (2). Hence, there can be little doubt that MDT work represents the main mechanism to truly ensure holistic care and a seamless service for patients throughout their disease trajectory (3).

Before the early 1990s, only a relatively small proportion of Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) patients, namely those with cancer, benefited from their care being managed by MDT work. Although such teams may have had existed for decades in some hospitals, especially in the UK, MDT work was the exception and not the rule pertaining to ENT. As a result, some factors relevant to decision-making were being missed, and in some challenging cases, ENT patients were not receiving optimal treatment.

Although MDT work has currently been accepted as the standard of care for patients with head and neck cancer, it seems prudent to extend this care model to most, if not all, ENT subspecialties. Despite the rather disappointing disease outcome in the presented patient, which, however, was closely related to the physical history of Cogan’s syndrome (5), creating MDTs with cohesive structure across the entire ENT spectrum is likely...
to help ENT surgeons to overcome the challenges associated with perplexing cases as clinical decision-making is increasingly shifting toward patient informed consent at the turning of the second decade of the 21st century.

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