

Letter from the Guest Editor: Selected Topics in Head and Neck Imaging



It was my great pleasure to serve as guest editor for this issue of *Seminars in Roentgenology* titled *Selected Topics in Head and Neck Imaging*. Since I started practicing neuro-radiology 28 years ago, I have always been drawn to head and neck imaging as a subspecialty. Over the years I have witnessed an increase in the number of radiologists who have become part of our tight knit community of head and neck imaging aficionados. However, I am well aware that the field still gives rise to tremendous angst and trepidation among trainees and practicing radiologists alike. This is likely based on widely variable opportunities for exposure to training in head and neck imaging as well as varied exposure to cases in some clinical practice centers. It is a hard topic to master without a relative high volume of exposure to case material.

For this issue I have recruited expert authors from the head and neck imaging community including senior and junior faculty, academic and private practice radiologists and colleagues from our dental radiology community. I have included a mixture of common and more uncommon clinical scenarios as well as review of topics which have complex imaging features.

We will review the common clinical scenario of sensorineural hearing loss, a frequent presenting history for studies in both adult and pediatric patients. Another topic covered is the normal and abnormal imaging appearance of ocular and orbital implants. We frequently see these implants as an incidental finding and this is an excellent review of what these implants should and should not look like on imaging studies.

We have two chapters covering neoplastic processes in the head and neck. There is a comprehensive review of sinonasal neoplasms including a discussion of new/emerging tumor entities. Another chapter covers the complex pathways of perineural tumor spread in head and neck cancer and imaging features of this important entity which is often overlooked or misdiagnosed.

We have three chapters covering topics in temporal bone imaging and pathology. Temporomandibular joint imaging is reviewed in a very comprehensive fashion including anatomy, function and imaging findings in a variety of pathologic processes affecting the TMJ. Another chapter covers the initial imaging work up and follow up of patients with known or suspected necrotizing otitis externa. This is a complex clinical scenario which often requires multiple imaging studies over the course of diagnosis and treatment. The third chapter covering temporal bone pathology addresses the topic of third window lesions. This is a topic that has recently received a great deal of attention as a potential cause of hearing loss and vestibular dysfunction but is less well known in the general radiology community.

I want to thank all of my contributing authors for their hard work on this issue.

I hope this issue will be helpful for a wide audience of practicing radiologists and trainees, both as a review and an introduction of new concepts which can help improve your knowledge base and your clinical practice.

Rebecca S. Cornelius, MD FACR
Guest Editor