

REPORT ON THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHOLESTEATOMA AND EAR SURGERY

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An international conference on issues related to cholesteatoma was held in Nagasaki, Japan, between 3 and 7 June, 2012. In the main, the conference brought together Japanese and regional researchers, but there were also a large group of doctors from America and Europe. Professor Haruo Takahashi, of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the University of Nagasaki, was president and chief organiser of the conference. As well as cholesteatoma the conference also covered the epidemiology of different diseases around the world, pathophysiology, and surgical procedures in children and adults.

There were a relatively large number of presentations given to innate cholesteatoma; although the condition is rare, progress in diagnostic screening now increases the its detection rate. Dr Hun Yi Park of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at Ajou University, Korea, presented data on more than 182 cases of congenital cholesteatoma. This is by far the largest group of patients with this disease collected from a single center. Other papers were devoted to surgical techniques including new developments in the reconstruction of the middle ear cholesteatoma after surgery. Noteworthy contributions were made by Alexander Hubers on "Ossiculoplasty in chronic ear surgery: omega connector, experimental and clinical results"; Jacob Tauris on "Ossiculoplasty longum crus of small defects with bone cement"; and Mehmet Ozuera on "Surgical outcomes in

malleus to oval window prosthesis in revision stapes surgery". During the discussions Prof. Sennaroglu of Turkey highlighted the advantages of glass-ionomer cement in selected cases of middle ear disease, and a return to this way of surgical reconstruction.

The conference also delivered the latest information on the use of implantable devices for chronic otitis media and cholesteatoma states after its removal. Dr de Abajo from Spain presented work on "Vibrant Soundbridge for patients suffering chronic otitis media and severe hearing loss", and Adrian James from Canada spoke about implantable hearing aids in children with cholesteatoma ear infections, emphasising the advantages, indications, and limitations of implantable devices.

One interesting session, led by Prof. M. Sanna, was devoted to live audio-visual coverage of temporal bone surgery. Picture quality and sound was excellent, and 3D glasses allowed accurate spatial visualisation of the structures worked on by the surgeons. The session was accompanied by a very lively discussion on the usefulness of ear surgery and endoscopy.

To summarise, the conference was very successful in terms of content and experience gained. For more information about the conference visit <http://www.chole2012.jp/>