Preface

Pain Management for the Otolaryngologist

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Editors

There have been extensive paradigm shifts in the management of perioperative analgesia when it comes to surgical patients over the past 3 decades. In the late 1990s, several private and government-based organizations raised recognition of pain as an undertreated "vital sign," a policy that has led to unintended consequences, including the rise of the contemporary opioid epidemic.

An interdisciplinary approach among surgeons, anesthesiologists, pain physicians, and other health care providers has been invaluable in tackling the opioid epidemic, and in this issue of *Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America*, we emphasize our understanding of contemporary strategies for managing pain in the perioperative Otolaryngologic setting. Surgeons must be well versed in appropriate and safe opioid prescription practices, as well as evidence-based nonopioid alternatives and multimodal analgesia. Our hope is that by incorporating evidence-based approaches, the

number of inappropriately prescribed opioids in the perioperative setting decreases while ensuring adequate analgesia for optimal patient management.

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