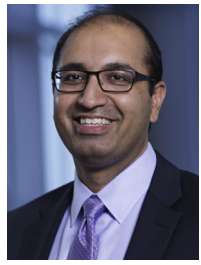
Preface

Robotics in Otolaryngology



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Editors

The use of robotics in otolaryngology has dramatically accelerated over the last one and a half decades. In 2020, robotic surgery has left a mark in many subspecialties within the field of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery. In some subspecialties, such as in head and neck surgical oncology, there is over a decade of experience with robotics; as a result, it has broad acceptance and a large body of evidence, although areas of controversy certainly exist. In other subspecialties, robotic surgery is more nascent. Regardless, the current status of robotics in our specialty is undoubtedly one of exciting potential with plentiful opportunities for continued innovation.

In this issue of *Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America*, we explore the history, current applications, best evidence, limitations, and future potential of robotic surgery within our specialty. The issue is not intended to be a technical guide to performing robotic surgery, but instead is an up-to-date summary of state-of-the-art within otolaryngology. The history of robotic surgery in otolaryngology highlights that innovations can come by learning from the experiences of physicians in other specialties. Similarly, one of our intentions with the current issue is to highlight aspects of robotics across the various subspecialties within otolaryngology–head and neck surgery. Doing so allows for continued opportunities to learn from other surgeons, even when they are in other disciplines.

As with any technologic device or surgical instrument, it is important to remember that there are certain clinical situations that merit the use of robotics and others that do not. So, instead of thinking of robotics as its own discipline, it is more appropriate to think of it as another tool in the armamentarium of otolaryngologists–head and neck surgeons. Nevertheless, proficiency in its use in the appropriate clinical setting will allow for the best possible outcomes for our patients.

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The goal of the current issue is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of robotic surgery in otolaryngology–head and neck surgery. It is our hope that this will be of benefit to practicing physicians, trainees, and our patients.

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