



Preface

Sleep-disordered breathing



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Guest Editor

Many significant advances have been made in the evaluation and treatment of sleep-disordered breathing over the past several years. In addition to the advent of radiofrequency-ablative techniques, progress continues to be made in electrical stimulation of upper airway dilators. Of equal importance has been the gradual adjudication of the role of various techniques that otolaryngologists have at their disposal.

This issue of *The Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America* emphasizes this last point, with reassessments of previously described interventions that have found their place in treatment algorithms. A fresh look at the management of pediatric sleep apnea is included, as is a comprehensive review of the available literature concerning gender differences as they relate to the severity and surgical prognosis of sleep apnea.

Finally, because otolaryngologists continue to maintain a substantial amount of responsibility for the care of patients with sleep disorders, a significant segment of this issue is devoted to the physiology of sleep-disordered breathing and the physiologic impact of sleep apnea syndromes. Further insight about the management of sleep disorders will require prospective randomized trials (which are beginning to emerge) and thoughtful

failure analysis. Outcome researchers will have an important part to play in the future development of this field.

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