RECENT ADVANCES IN BRONCHOESOPHAGOLOGY

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Proceedings of the 6th World Congress of Bronchoesophagology, Tokyo, 15-18 October 1989

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Preface

The 6th World Congress of Bronchoesophagology that was held in Tokyo from October 15th to 18th, 1989 was a great success, attracting far more participants than were originally expected. As president, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to Tokyo, from around the world, for the occasion as well as the members of the organizing committee, without whose selfless efforts the Congress would never have been possible.

The Congress proved to be a major gathering, with over 820 participants from 31 countries gathering in Tokyo. Significant as it was for its scholastic contributions to the field of bronchoesophagology, the Congress was also successful in promoting goodwill among the peoples of the world by providing ample opportunities for the many scholars and researchers in attendance to become friends.

It is my deepest wish that the feelings of amity born of this Congress will continue to deepen and unfold in future years and thus contribute to advancing scholarship in our discipline as well as cementing the bonds of friendship.

Although we were only together in Tokyo for a short period of four days, nothing would make me happier than to think that the participants in the Congress will continue to make contributions to the science of bronchoesophagology, having returned to their practices and research with the feeling that their experiences in Tokyo were both satisfying and enriching.

I hope that the publication of the Proceedings will serve to inform a broad circle of interested people of the achievements made here at the Congress and in so doing help in some small way to further the goals of bronchoesophagology.

Tetsuzo Inouye
President
The 6th World Congress of
Bronchoesophagology

OPENING ADDRESS

It gives me great pleasure to have the honor of opening the 6th World Congress of Bronchoesophagology during this most beautiful time of year in Japan. If I may beg your indulgence for a moment, by way of welcoming our honored guests and participants, I would like first to recount briefly the events which have led to the World Congress being held in Japan.

During the 5th World Congress which was held in Rio de Janeiro, it was suggested that Japan host the next Congress. The officers of the Japan Broncho-Esophagological Society convened soon thereafter and upon consideration of the matter decided in favor of hosting the 6th World Congress of Broncho-esophagology.

Thanks to the unselfish efforts of the officers and members of the Japan Broncho-Esophagological Society, it was possible to complete preparations for the 6th World Congress in the very short span of less than three years. That we are able to welcome some eight hundred participants from twenty-nine countries spanning the globe here today is a tribute to their energy and support as well as to the enthousiastic cooperation and welcome guidance of members of the Congress over the world. I would like to congratulate everyone involved for making possible what will no doubt prove to be a grand Congress.

We are indeed fortunate to have with us here today a great many distinguished guests including two Japanese cabinet ministers; the Honorable Kazuya Ishibashi, Minister of Education, and the Honorable Saburo Toida, Minister of Health and Welfare. We are also honored to have Dr. Haruto Haneda, President of the Japan Medical Association, Dr. Kunio Ota, President of the Japanese Association of Medical Sciences, and Dr. Bryan Neel, President of the American Broncho-Esophagological Association here with us. On behalf of the membership of the Japan Broncho-Esophagological Society, allow me to welcome you gentlemen and thank you for taking time away from your busy schedules to be with us.

Beginning today and continuing for the next three days, we have papers scheduled which we feel promise to expand and deepen our knowledge of the field as well as spark fruitful discussions. In light of the fact that the World Congress of Bronchoesophagology also strives to deepen friendship among its members, we have scheduled additional events which we feel will provide opportunities for our members to renew old friendships and to make new ones. Autumn is a beautiful time in Japan, and I invite everyone, members, their families, and especially those of you who have traveled from afar to be with us today to take advantage of the opportunities provided and enjoy yourselves to the full during your stay. I assure you that we have done our best to put together a program of activities for you that will enable you to enjoy your stay here. If you have questions or comments about anything, please feel free to approach any of us. We are at your service.

As chairman of the Japan Broncho-Esophagological Society, I would like to close now by extending a warm welcome to everyone on behalf of the Society. Enjoy your stay.

Thank you.

Tetsuzo Inouye
President
The 6th World Congress of
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CONTENTS

LECTURES

The current status of laryngeal cancer R.W. Cantrell	3
Videography of the larynx (Summary of videotape presentation) E. Yanagisawa	
The histopathology of subglottic stenosis	
L.D. Holinger	
SYMPOSIA	
Endoscopy	
Analysis of the surface of Nicelland Carlo Carlo and Alas	
Analysis of the endoscopic and histologic findings of gastroduodenal peptic diseases in pediatric patients	
Yu Kar Ling Koda, K. Iriya, R.K. Nakamura, M.E. Yokota,	
S. Nakakubo, M.A.R. Moreira and D. Barbieri	31
Endoscopy in otorhinolaryngology	
P.A.R. Clement	37
The present condition and the future of PDT for esophageal carcinoma in Japan	
T. Kouzo, H. Konno, Y. Sakuma, E. Hishikawa, S. Onoda and	
K. Isono	41
Newly developed bronchoscope	
R. Ono, E.S. Edell and S. Ikeda	49
Laryngeal neoplasm	
Pathology of malignant tumors of the larynx A. Ferlito	57
Adjuvant therapy of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis in children	
with interferon alpha 2 C. Results of a prospective multicentric study L.P. Löbe, H.P. Zenner, Z. Labas, P. Claros, R. Pavelka, H. Hirche	
and B. Trauschel	63
Control of neck mestastases	0.5
O. Kleinsasser and H. Glanz and T. Kimmich	69
Partial laryngectomy for laryngeal cancer	
H. Suzuki and T. Kaneko	73

Respiratory defense systems

VITAL-DACTERIAL INTERACTIONS	
G.J. Jakab	81
Immunological defence mechanism against respiratory infection	
J. Yata	87
Mucociliary function in the nose	0.2
Y. Sakakura	93
Regulation of some activities of the larynx by vagal afferent H. Fukuda, M. Kawaida and Y. Kawasaki	99
Neurotransmitters in laryngeal protective function	77
Y. Hisa and T. Uno	105
Role of proteinases in chronic inflammatory lung disease	105
R.A. Stockley	111

Functional dysphagia	
Functional dysphagia - Radiologic assessment	
M.W. Donner	119
Functional dysphagia: Rehabilitation	117
M. Groher	127
Surgical techniques for functional dysphagia	
J.J.M. Van Overbeek and B. Wouters	131
Surgical rehabilitation for dysphagia caused by neuromuscular disorders	
T. Shin, T. Maeyama, T. Umezaki and Y. Iwanaga	135
Disorder in pharyngo esophagual manometry in dysphagic patients	
S. Komiyama	141
Digastric repositioning and infrahyoid myotomy to augment laryngeal	
elevation	
H.K. Kashima, M.W. Donner and B. Jones	147
Esophageal cancer	
Little Control Control Control Control	
Cancer of the thoracic esophagus: Recent advances and results in the	
staging and treatment	
A. Peracchia, R. Bardini, A. Ruol, C. Castoro, A. Segalin,	
M. Asolati, F. Cavazzini and E. Tiso	153
Surgical treatment for thoracic esophageal cancer	
M. Yoshida, M. Yamamoto, T. Ogawa and Y. Murata	159
Evaluation of operative methods by stage in esophageal cancer	1.00
K. Isono, S. Onoda and N. Tohnosu	167
Evaluation and treatment of cancer of the hypopharynx H. Miyahara, Y. Tsuruta, O. Tanaka, T. Matsunaga and T. Sato	173
11. Muyanara, 1. Isarata, O. Tanaka, 1. Muisanaga ana 1. Sato	1/3

Laser surgery

Carbon dioxide laser in the treatment of vocal cord tumors	
F.G. Bánhidy	181
Endoscopic laser treatment for superficial esophageal cancer	
H. Tajiri, Y. Yamaguchi, S. Yoshida and Y. Oguro	185
Results after Nd: Yag lasertherapy and photo dynamic therapy (PDT) of	
inoperable esophageal and cardial cancers	
L. Norberto, A. Segalin, A. Ruol, M. Baessato, A. Cusumano,	*
R. Bardini, E. Tiso, L. Bonavina and A. Peracchia	191
Endoscopic Nd: Yag laser surgery for lung cancers	
T. Fujisawa, Y. Yamaguchi, M. Baba, M. Shiba, H. Kimura,	
C. Kadoyama, H. Yamakawa, Y. Saitoh and N. Urabe	199
Photodynamic therapy: Treatment early stage lung cancer results and	
follow-up	
E.S. Edell and D.A. Cortese	205
Laser surgery - Application for laryngeal disease	
T. Yoshida, Y. Hirade, H. Matsuoka, K. Uegaki and M. Hirano	211
Benign esophageal stricture	
Diagnosis and surgical therapy of gastroesophageal reflux in children	
J. Yokoyama, M. Nakano, H. Matsufuji, S. Hara, S. Hirobe,	
T. Tamura, E. Endo and O. Abe	219
Endoscopic treatment of oesophageal strictures in children	
B. Benjamin	225
Hypopharyngeal stricture	
H. Okamura, T. Mori and S. Inaki	227
The Charles at 11 11 11 and 5. I make	
Laryngotracheal stenosis	
Laryngeal stenosis: Endoscopic aspects	
K. Yamashita	235
Surgical treatment of laryngeal stenosis	237
M. Tanabe	431
Laryngotracheal stenosis and tracheoplasty	242
K. Nakamoto, M. Ohta, K. Nakamura and M. Maeda	243
Laryngeal stenosis	249
H. Takahashi and I. Uno	249
Selected use of the CO ₂ laser, dilation and stenting in the treatment of	
subglottic and tracheal stenosis	253
S.M. Shapshay and J.F. Beamis	433

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Larynx

Three-dimensional computer graphics of the larynx	
K. Mori, H. Kojima and I. Honjo	259
Visualization of the air flow during phonation in excised canine larynges	
T. Tatehara, H. Fukuda, S. Kano, M. Kawaida, K. Ohki,	
Y. Kawasaki, S. Saito and M. Amatsu	261
The investigation of the glottalresistance waveform	
K. Agawa and Y. Koike	263
Intraoral pressure for evaluation of laryngeal pathology	
K. Kitajima and F. Fujita	265
Preservation of laryngeal function in the patient with the neurilemoma	
arising in the vagus nerve: A case report	
S. Endo, A. Kida, H. Iida, E. Ishiyama, K. Kikuchi and H. Tomita	269
Long-term results of one-stage (postlaryngectomy) operation for voice	
rehabilitation	
K. Taguchi and H. Yokoyama	271
Significance of acoustic parameters obtained from sound spectrogram in	
determining the phonatory function of the patients with vocal nodule	
KM. Kim, GR. Kim, HS. Choi and KS. Suh	273
Activity in intrinsic laryngeal muscles	
H. Kihara, H. Kanetake and Y. Koike	277
Brainstem response evoked by the laryngeal reflex on human	
T. Yamashita, M. Yamaguchi, J. Udaka and Y. Koike	279
Mucosal blood flow of vocal fold measured by reflectance	
spectrophotometry	1140
M. Yamaguchi, T. Yamashita, H. Kanetake and Y. Koike	281
A histochemical study of the intrinsic laryngeal muscles in the human	
K. Tamura, J. Udaka and Y. Koike	283
A histochemical study of the intrinsic laryngeal muscles in amyotrophic	
lateral sclerosis(als)	
Y. Murakami, M. Yagi, M. Mizuno, Y. Nomura, S. Horiguchi,	
S. Niimi and H. Hirose	285
Basic investigation of histopathology of animal larynx after	
administration of androgenic hormon	
K. Inakami, S. Kitahara and T. Inouye	289
Ultrastructural and histochemical study of the neuromuscular junctions	
in the denervated posterior cricoarytenoid muscle of the cat	
T. Yoshihara, T. Ishii, M. Nomoto, T. Kanda, A. Konno and	
T. Kuneko	291
Clinical observation on acute epiglottitis	
Y. Ishizuka and J. Hashimoto	293
Acute epiglottitis in adults	
F. Hiraide, H. Kakoi, M. Ikeda and T. Inouye	295

	xvii
Detection of human papillomavirus in laryngeal papillomas S. Watanabe, Y. Naito, R. Saito, Y. Masuda, H. Ogura and Y. Yabe The effect of tobacco and alcohol consumption on the human larynx	297
H. Hirabayashi, K. Koshii, K. Uno, H. Ohogaki, Y. Nakasone, T. Fujisawa and T. Hinohara Psychological peculiarities of abnormal sensations of the pharyngo-	301
larynx E. Ishiyama, Y. Mukai, H. Hara, O. Takayama and H. Tomita Ageing of the membranous portion of human vocal folds	303
S. Sakaguchi, S. Kurita and M. Hirano	305
Paralysis	
Image analysis of the paralyzed vocal cord during phonation using digital radiography	
K. Kumakawa, H. Hirose and H. Yamaguchi Transection of posticus and nerve suture for the recurrent nerve injured	309
cases M. Ohmura, E. Yamamoto, T. Haji and K. Mori Clinical evaluation of the arytenoid rotation for unilateral vocal cord	311
paralysis M. Yagi, Y. Murakami, M. Mizuno, Y. Nomura, S. Horiguchi, S. Niimi and H. Hirose	313
Detection of the malignant tumor in vocal cord paralysis cases with diagnostic imaging	
M. Furukawa, K. Ooishi and S. Sawaki Intracordal injection Consideration on its technique and equipment	317
E. Takayama, H. Fukuda, J. Ohtsuki, Y. Kawasaki and A. Shiotani Displacement of ventricular fold following cordectomy	319
D.H. Tsuji, H. Fukuda, Y. Kawasaki, Y. Ma and K. Makino A new surgical approach for unilateral recurrent laryngeal nerve	321
paralysis S. Iwamura	591*
A follow-up study on frame work surgery for unilateral vocal cord paralysis	- %
H. Yamaguchi, H. Sata, T. Akutsu, H. Hirose, M. Sawashima and K. Kumakawa	323
Surgical intervention on the anterior commissure and free mucosal transplantation	
H. Kojima and K. Omori and I. Honjo	325

^{*} Due to unavoidable circumstances, this article has been inserted at the end of this volume.

Laryngeal cancer

So-called carcinosarcoma of the larynx: A case report and pathological	
study M. Farrakana and P. Harada	220
M. Furukawa and R. Umeda Scanning electron microscopic study of benign and malignant laryngeal	329
lesions	
Wenxian Chen, Fayou Gu, Chuanhong Yang and Zhengjian Wei	331
The management of patients with early glottic cancer	221
S. Mori, S. Iwata, A. Takasu, M. Yaida and T. Suzuki	335
Management of web with hypopharyngeal carcinoma – A case report	555
T. Yada, M. Kinishi, S. Tahara and M. Amatsu	337
OK-432 (biological response modifier) local injection therapy on head	
and neck cancers	
M. Ikeda, M. Saito, S. Tsuru, S. Kitahara and T. Inouye	339
Lectin histochemistry of the primary and metastatic tumor cells of the	
laryngeal carcinoma	
C.S. Jin, M. Yamagiwa, K. Ukai and Y. Sakakura	341
Radiation-induced cancers of the head and neck	
K. Umatani, T. Satoh, K. Yoshino, T. Fujii, C. Hatta and T. Sawada	343
Chemosensitivity of laryngeal cancer	
H. Saito, S. Yoshida, S. Fujieda, G. Tsuda and N. Tanigawa	345
Endonesia	
Endoscopy	
Comparative merits of fibreoptic versus rigid endoscopes in the upper	
respiratory tract	
S.R. Ravi Shankar, C. Ranga Rao, N. Radhakrishnan and	
S. Ramakrishnan	349
Endoscopic endolaryngeal surgery: Introduction of a new procedure	
K. Yokoyama, K. Yamashita and A. Tsunoda	353
Laryngomicrosurgery by use of a side-opened direct laryngoscope	
M. Kawaida, H. Fukuda, S. Kano, Y. Kawasaki, A. Shiotani and	
D.H. Tsuji	355
Endobronchial electrocautery for the dehydration of lung cancer	
F. De Francesco, M. Picciotto, A. d'Aquino, D. Palmara, V. Pitini,	
S. Chillemi and P. Spadaro	357
The treatment of bronchial disorders via endoscope	
Y. Liang	359
Fine needle aspiration to improve the diagnosis in lung cancer	
F. De Francesco, M. Picciotto, A. d'Aquino, M. Rizzo, M. Mesiti,	261
A. Blandino and M. Busa Bronchoalveolar lavage in a patient affected by cystic fibrosis and	361
allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis	
L. Murer, A. Barbato, G. Basso and F. Zacchello	365
E. Marce, 11. Durbuto, O. Dusso una 1. Duction	505

Deglutition

Genetics and pathophysiology of esophageal dilatation developing in a mutant mouse 101/b	
H. Inohara, S. Kida, M. Okamoto, T. Hatanaka, H. Nakajima,	271
T. Matsunaga and T. Nomura Cortical projections to the medullary swallowing center in the cat	371
T. Matsuse, T. Umezaki and T. Shin	373
Neuronal organization of swallowing in the cat medulla oblongata	275
T. Umezaki, T. Matsuse and T. Shin Intraluminal pressure profiles in upper high pressure zone	375
T. Mori, H. Okamura and S. Inaki	377
Postoperative swallowing function for carcinoma of the oropharynx Y. Kuroiwa, T. Yoshida and M. Hirano	379
Manometric studies on the motility of esophageal achalasia before and after esophagocardioplasty with gastric patch	
T. Hirashima, I. Motoyama, M. Tohyama and K. Isono	381
Contrast medium for fluorographic examination in patients with	
dysphagia H. Yamashita, H. Miyazaki, S. Ryu and S. Komiyama	385
The pharyngo-glottic closing time during swallowing	303
H. Miyazaki, H. Yamashita and S. Komiyama	387
,	20,
Basic oncology	
Cancer-specific proteins as a new marker in human esophageal cancer and its clinical value	
Zhang Qun-Hua, Hong Xiu-Ling, Ren Hui-Min, Zhang Sheng-Gen and Wang Bao-Hua	391
I C M DNA analysis of invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the	
esophagus	
R. Kuylenstierna and E. Munck-Wikland	393
Carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), CA 10 - 9 and CA 50 in monitoring	
human squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus S. Haglund and E. Munck-Wikland	395
Serum carcinoembryonic antigen and ferritin in bronchogenic carcinoma	373
M.N. Al-Bassam, M.A.F. Al-Rawi, A. Khaki and N. El-Hassani	397
A new immunological parameter CO-N reaction on Wegener's	
granulomatosis	
M. Ikeda, T. Omori, N. Kawaguchi, Y. Watanabe, S. Tsuru,	401
S. Kitaharu and T. Inouye	401

Trachea

Tracheotomy - A simple and fast method K. Uesugi, I. Kato, M. Kikuchihara, H. Iwasawa, J. Iida,

K. Tsutsumi, H. Iwatake and I. Takeyama	405
Intubation of the trachea and bronchi - palliative procedures	
T.M. Orlowski	407
Laryngeal trauma for prolonged intubation: The place of endoscopic	
evaluation	
B. Benjamin	409
Closure of the bronchial stump fistula with fibrin sealant	The second
T.M. Orlowski	411
Management of subglottic stenosis by cricoid splitting and submucous resection with cartilage graft	
K.H. Kim, E.G. Hwang and J.H. Kim	413
Management of severe tracheal stenosis by cartilage graft and silastic	715
implant P. Sannikorn, S. Mongkol-Arepong, K. Komin, V. Vorasubin and	
S. Antarasaena	417
CT and MRI of the trachea	417
M.F. Mafee and H. Belmont	419
Intratumoral hydroxypolyetoxydodecan injection in bronchial tumour	717
M. Picciotto, F. De Francesco, A. d'Aquino, L. Salvi, N. Caristi,	
G. Magno and R. Samiani	423
G. Magno ana K. Samiani	423
Basic research	
Dasic research	
Localization of sensory neurons in the canine nodose ganglion sending	
fibers in the laryngeal nerves	
K. Toyoda, Y. Hisa, T. Sonoda, T. Uno, M. Yagi and Y. Murakami	427
Peripheral distribution of the sympathetic nerve fibers in the cat's larynx	421
by means of WGA-HRP and fluorescence histochemical studies	
Y. Yoshida, T. Saito, M. Hirano, M. Morimoto and T. Kanaseki	429
Substance P and calcitonine gene-related peptide immunoreactive nerve	447
fibers in the larynx of cats	
Y. Tanaka, T. Saito, Y. Yoshida and M. Hirano	433
Ultrastructural study on tracheal damage induced by aspiration of	433
gastric contents	
Y. Ninomiya, S. Kasuga, M. Takumida and Y. Harada	125
	435
Electron microscopic study on the hypopharyngeal mucosa in human fetuses	
	127
N. Sakai, T. Suenaga, K. Tanaka and Y. Inuyama	437
Airway mucous glycoprotein and dynamic viscoelasticity	100
K. Hirata, Y. Majima, Y. Sakakura, Y. Tatenuma and S. Yasuoka	439
Foreign body	
A clinical study on 35 cases with foreign bodies in the trachea and	
bronchi	
F. Ikarashi and Y. Nakano	443
CONTRACTOR	113