

# Controversy in Otolaryngology

*Edited by*

**James B. Snow, Jr., M.D.**



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## PREFACE

The purpose of this book is to provide a forum for the analysis and discussion of several of the most important areas of controversy in clinical otolaryngology. The problems represented by these controversies recur on a regular basis in otolaryngological practice. All of these problems have great substance because they deal with life-threatening conditions or ones in which the quality of the patient's life is severely affected. Many of these controversies deal with issues that have great socioeconomic impact because of the number of patients involved.

Each of the problem areas involves a degree of uncertainty. Indeed, if it were not for this uncertainty, a controversy probably would not exist, and a single correct position could be formulated.

The problem was stated as the editor saw it. For each problem two or more contributors were asked to examine critically the evidence supporting a particular approach to the problem. Each contributor was invited to identify the positive points supporting the position taken as well as the demerits of alternative points of view. The contributors submitted their essays without knowing who was taking the alternative point of view and without reading the essay expressing the contrary point of view. All of the contributors are to be complimented on their compliance with this ground rule.

A distinguished group of otolaryngologists, whose intellect and expertise are widely recognized, have contributed to this book. They were invited on the basis of their efforts in the solution of the problem under discussion as well as their leadership in the thought of the discipline and their reputation for careful scholarship.

Although no attempt has been made to describe the field of otolaryngology, the focus on areas of controversy does tend to do that, and it is not surprising that the vitality of the domain is represented by controversies in otology, allergy, rhinology, laryngology, head and neck surgery, facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, maxillofacial surgery, bronchoesophagology and pediatric otolaryngology.

It is hoped the advocacy position taken by the contributors will be enjoyable as well as informative. The reader must assess the evidence submitted in each essay rather than the writing skill with which it is presented.

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