Editorial

Otorhinolaryngological Advancements in Phoniatrics

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The production of voice is a powerful tool not only for communication, but also for artistic performances. A voice disorder occurs when an individual expresses concern about having an abnormal voice (with reference to voice quality, pitch, or loudness) that does not meet daily needs—even if others do not perceive it as different or deviant [1,2]. Voice disorders are a source of increasing concern, as normal voice quality is a social demand [3].

In the fifth century B.C., Hippocrates, the "Father of Medicine", wrote the first observations on voice quality, regarding whether it be clear or hoarse. With further medical progress, we have gained knowledge about human anatomy, including the physiology and pathology of the laryngeal mechanism. In 1854, a singing teacher named Manuel Garcia first observed the glottis with a laryngeal mirror under sunlight, which ushered in the modern era of laryngology. Meanwhile, the personnel providing the evaluation and treatment of voice disorders include not only laryngologists but also voice pathologists, other medical specialists as required, as well as vocal coaches and singing instructors.

In the last decade, with the advancement in distal-chipped videolaryngoscopes and injectable materials [4], injection laryngoplasty has become one of the most common early management strategies for unilateral vocal paralysis [4]. As the treatment outcomes of head and neck cancer have improved, maximizing long-term function for cancer survivors has increasingly been discussed [5,6]. Integration with other technologies, such as ultrasonography, high-speed imaging and high-resolution imaging, may further enhance clinical diagnostic capabilities [7].

In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, the role and increasing need for telemedicine has been stressed [8]. Incorporation of artificial intelligence in analyzing voice and imaging data would be beneficial [9].

All of the challenges and new developments in phoniatrics are welcomed in the current Special Issue entitled "Otorhinolaryngological Advancements in Phoniatrics". Through discussing the issues above, we aim to develop solutions and support for the multi-disciplinary voice-caring practice. In addition, how these advancements improve the clinical practice of caring for patients with voice disorders is also of interest.

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