

## The 21<sup>st</sup> Microear Surgical Workshop And CME Programme — A Report

Moumita Sen

### **Our Workshop :**

The live micro-ear surgical workshop and hands-on cadaveric temporal bone dissection course of the Department of ENT Head Neck Surgery was started in our institute in the year 2002, with Prof. B.K. Roychoudhuri as organizing chairman. The micro ear surgical workshop was held every year until 2019. The cadaveric workshop was regularly overbooked and we had international participants all the way from Bangladesh and Kuwait. After the outbreak of COVID 19, organizing the workshop became next to impossible in 2020 and 2021 due to travel restriction all over India. So after a pause we were back again with our 21<sup>st</sup> workshop, held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022.

### **Our Guest Faculty :**

Anotia (complete absence of pinna along with external auditory canal [EAC]) and microtia (partial development of pinna with or without the development of EAC) are birth defects of the ear. The reconstruction of the pinna is a challenge because it needs to be sculpted from harvested rib cartilage, which if not done with chest circumference > 60cm leads to chest deformity.

Our esteemed guest faculty Dr. Ashesh Bhumkar, completed his ENT postgraduation from B. J. Medical College (Pune) and practices in Thane, Maharashtra in his own E.N.T. hospital, delivering world class service for the past 30 years. He is known for his pioneering work in microtia-atresia surgery with hearing reconstruction, for his excellence in stapes surgery and FESS surgery. He is the founder member of

the International Society of Auricular Reconstruction and also the founder of ENT academy – a medical trust teaching ENT surgeons, arranging medical camps and conducting courses nationally and internationally. Along with his entire team he arrived straight away from the airport to our hospital to examine the patients the day before the workshop, counsel them and plan their surgery accordingly. We had requested him to perform a microtia repair surgery in a 12 year old female patient, and a stapes surgery in an adult female.

### **The Programme :**

The argument that such workshops fill the void created by the inability of postgraduate training programmes to expose students to new operative techniques has its limitations since these workshops are a poor alternative to structured teaching.

The 47 registered delegates included postgraduate trainees from all over India (Bengal, Bihar, Assam, UP, Delhi, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh) Senior Residents and Consultants.

Day 1 began with the live surgical workshop by Dr. Bhumkar and our in-house faculty which started at 8am. Live simultaneous transmission from two theatres was arranged in 2 halls. In one Dr. Bhumkar started the pinna reconstruction surgery along with his team, while in the other Prof. Amitabha Roychoudhury and his in-house team demonstrated cochlear implantation surgery. There followed Tympanoplasty with Ossiculoplasty (Dr. Sabyasachi Gon), Stapes surgery (two cases, by Dr. Kaushik Mandal and Dr. Bhumkar) and last but not least

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Senior Resident, Dept of ENT Head Neck Surgery, RKMSP, VIMS

Mastoidectomy + Tympanoplasty by Prof. Amitabha Roychoudhury. A working breakfast was provided for the audience, along with tea and coffee.

The inauguration programme followed the completion of the live surgery workshop (Fig. 1). Invocation was performed by the School of Nursing students, followed by a welcome address by Prof. Amitabha Roychoudhury, Head of Department and Organising Chairman. All the guests were called to the stage and felicitated with an *uttariya*. Swami Nityakamananda (Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan) delivered a beautiful introductory speech, followed by a speech from Prof. B.K. Raychaudhuri, former Head of the Department. The ceremonial lamp was lit, then there were speeches by Prof. Pranab Kumar Das, Principal, Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences, Swami Shaktipradananda, Dr. Bhumkar and Prof. Haradhan Bora, President AOI West Bengal. The programme was concluded with a small vote of thanks to all the guests present there.

The last session of the day was the demonstration of temporal bone dissection by Dr. Bhumkar. The conference dinner was held at the Taj Vivanta Hotel and this was an opportunity for the delegates to socialise and meet the faculty. An otology quiz contest was conducted by Prof. Ranjan Raychowdhury; Dr. Surbhi from Patna Medical College was the winner.

Days 2 and 3 were devoted to hands-on cadaveric temporal bone dissection with 42 registered participants. Initially we had planned dissection stations for 21 candidates but after repeated requests we finally decided to double the number of stations and added one more day to our dissection programme. Each participant was given a wet temporal bone, the required dissection instruments, a dissection manual and 210 minutes

time to complete their dissection. Each table had assigned faculty for continuous supervision of the participants. The striking feature that we observed throughout the event was how all dissectors were happy to help their colleagues. Those who were scheduled in the later slots voluntarily came forward to assist the ones who were dissecting and vice versa. Each delegate was handed over a certificate by Prof. Amitabha Roychoudhury, Organising Chairman. The supervising faculty included present Faculty of our Department, as well as alumni who are now academic faculty in various institutes across the state.

#### **The Patients :**

The patients had been well counselled regarding the surgical workshop and the involvement of guest faculty and in-house faculty. Informed consent was obtained by the faculty themselves. They were consented for their surgical procedures and sharing of information with the whole audience.

#### **Conclusion :**

From the view of organising secretary that I may vouch for the enormous amount of work required, from arranging cadavers to conducting the dissection programme and managing everything systematically. This was a total team effort by all members of the Department, including the Nursing and Support staff (Fig. 2). We have received very heart-warming messages from the participants thanking us for our guidance and help, and requesting for the next dissection programme to be held soon. It was not easy to restart this programme because the Covid-19 era had brought a standstill in everyone's lives due to travel restrictions, restrictions on gatherings etc. This programme was like a fresh start for us, and we hope to continue with this as a part of our annual academic programme.



**Fig.1 : Inauguration of the Workshop**



**Fig. 2 : Organising team with delegates**