

PREFACE

When we were asked to serve as coeditors for this issue of *Seminars*, we were delighted because we have an active laryngectomy clinic and see all forms of alaryngeal speech in a local laryngectomy club. We teach a required course in alaryngeal speech and have a required practicum experience with laryngectomees at the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Speech Pathology and Audiology Department. We were also pleased that our colleagues were willing to share their considerable expertise with our readers.

The senior, in age, coeditor was first introduced to alaryngeal speech in 1968 at the 8th International Association of Laryngectomees Voice Institute in Portland, Oregon. It was Dr. James Shanks who made the introduction. It is thus fitting that this distinguished, experienced clinician authored the article on coping with cancer of the larynx. Dr. Shanks is internationally recognized as a senior statesman in the area of alaryngeal speech in all of its many forms.

Dr. Eric Blom was a natural choice for the article on tracheoesophageal puncture. He is a pioneer in this field of clinical research and the development of various prosthetic devices. Dr. Blom was recently recognized at the 1994 meeting of the Pacific Voice Conference in San Francisco for his innovative contributions in the field.

Drs. Ronald and Ronda Hamaker, both of whom are ENT physicians, are also experienced cancer surgeons and authors in laryngectomy. In addition, they are delightful colleagues with whom to collaborate. This father and daughter team bring a blend of technical knowledge and compassion to

their article on surgery with patients having laryngeal cancer.

Mary Jane Renner brings her professional education and experience as a trained counselor and the added expertise of personal history as a laryngectomy to her article on counseling. Her insights have been gained at considerable personal cost and suffering as well as through her own courageous successes.

Two of our colleagues agreed to coauthor the article on radiation and chemotherapy, which reflects their extensive clinical experience treating patients who suffer from laryngeal cancer. Dr. Stephen Hall, a professor of Internal Medicine and Oncology, and Dr. Roger Miercort, a clinical associate professor of Radiation Oncology at the University of Nevada, School of Medicine, bring a blend of academic medicine and active clinical practices to their discussion of these treatment procedures.

We have coauthored two articles in which we share our current thoughts on how to develop alaryngeal speech, several methods, and the specific use of various artificial devices.

Collectively, the authors assembled here represent 175 years of clinical experience with tens of thousands of people who have survived laryngectomy, have developed postcancer speech, and have successfully "gotten on with their lives." It is to these courageous patients that we dedicate this issue.

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Guest Editors