The management of ear, nose, and throat diseases comprises a substantial portion of the practice of internists and of primary care practitioners. The National Health Interview Survey in 1995 identified sinusitis as the most frequently self-reported chronic disease among adults in this country. Inhalant allergies affect 17% to 25% of the population and predispose to sinusitis, pharyngitis, laryngitis, otitis, and the like. Hearing loss, along with the associated tinnitus, is increasing coincident with our aging population, as are balance disorders. Likewise, in our aging and sun-exposed population, premalignant and malignant facial skin lesions are now the most commonly reported tumors.

This issue of Medical Clinics of North America provides the internist with a broad overview of ear, nose, and throat medicine and surgery, with each article reviewing the basics on a particular group of diseases and then presenting the latest advancements in diagnosis and therapy, plus references for further study. After the common otolaryngologic diseases are covered, the more unusual, yet particularly challenging aspects of our regional specialty, such as the management of the head and neck cancer patient, thyroid and parathyroid lesions, voice disorders, and facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, are detailed. The authors were instructed to present the information as they would to an internist colleague who queries them during hospital rounds.

We hope this Clinics issue will be a practical and frequently used reference in the management of your patients.

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Guest Editors