



Editorial

IAO Systematic Review Award 2020

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The *IAO Systematic Review Award* is awarded every year to the best articles in systematic review, including meta-analyses, published in the *International Archives of Otorhinolaryngology*, which seeks to highlight articles that form the foundations and concepts of universal knowledge.¹ In 2020, it was awarded to the three best systematic and/or literature reviews that were published in the journal in the year 2019.^{2–4} This award was established to encourage the submission of high-quality systematic review articles.

Systematic review is a method of evidence synthesis that critically assesses and interprets all relevant research available regarding a particular issue, area of knowledge, or phenomenon of interest. Statistical methods (meta-analyses) are usually included in the analysis and synthesis of results, allowing the increase of the sample size and accuracy of the assessed outcomes.⁵ Systematic reviews and meta-analyses are at the top of the pyramid of evidence. They provide the highest level of evidence to verify the effectiveness of interventions,⁶ help health professionals to stay up to date with the latest developments, provide evidence for decision making, enable evaluation of the risks and benefits of interventions, provide inputs for the development of assistance guidelines, and provide information on prior studies for potential funding sources for new research.⁶ We suggest the use of guidelines for the elaboration and conduction of a systematic review using well-defined and explicit methods aimed at minimizing biases.^{5,7}

The competing works must be published in editions 1 to 4 in the year prior to the one when the award takes place. The rules for manuscript submission are available at <http://www.thieme.com/iao>. The judging commission, which is comprised of members of the editorial board, will be

coordinated by the chief editor of this journal. Articles will be judged based on scientific merit, including originality, consistency, significance, and impact. The winning authors and co-authors will receive certificates for their work. The best systematic reviews will be announced in the last edition of each volume of the following publication year, thus providing enough time to accumulate citations needed for analyses.

With this effort, we wish to honor and show our appreciation to the deserving authors and encourage new talents in international otorhinolaryngological research with a commitment to stimulate education and technological development through research and training.

We are pleased to announce the following exceptional studies worth mentioning:

1. Klein A, Ovnat-Tamir S, Marom T, Gluck O, Rabinovics N, Shemesh S. **Fish Bone Foreign Body: The Role of Imaging.** Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol. 2019 Jan;23(1):110–115. doi: 10.1055/s-0038-1673631
2. Dokania V, Rajguru A, Mayashankar V, Mukherjee I, Jaipuria B, Shere D. **Palatal Schwannoma: An Analysis of 45 Literature Reports and of an Illustrative Case.** Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol. 2019 Jul;23(3):e360–e370. doi: 10.1055/s-0039-1692635
3. Fernandes IA, Armond ACV, Falci SGM. **The Effectiveness of the Cold Therapy (cryotherapy) in the Management of Inflammatory Parameters after Removal of Mandibular Third Molars: A Meta-Analysis.** Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol. 2019 Apr;23(2):221–228. doi: 10.1055/s-0039-1677755

Conflict of Interests

The authors have no conflict of interests to declare.

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