

## ESPO Bursary for BPOC 2018 – Report

I attended the 2018 British Paediatric Otolaryngology Course that took place in London at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children on March 15-16<sup>th</sup>. I was fortunate to attend it as this year's winner of the European Society of Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology Junior Member's Bursary. The course comprised seven sessions of lectures on relevant themes of Paediatric Otolaryngology, addressed by a panel of the United Kingdom's most prominent Paediatric ENT consultants. Mr. Ben Hartley was the Course Director.

The first session presented was **Paediatric ENT Emergencies**. In the lecture on **airway emergencies**, causation and assessment of severity, securing the airway and team work were all covered. For **neck and periorbital infections** and **mastoiditis and complications of acute otitis media**, intravenous antibiotic treatment was recommended as the first line of approach, leaving radiological investigation and surgical treatment to non-respondent or complicated cases. **Infant nasal obstruction** emergencies were highlighted, such as neonatal obstruction, especially **choanal atresia**.

In the **"Top Tips in 15 minutes"** session, the main **craniofacial syndromes** and their associated ENT problems were presented. **Juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma** was also discussed: endoscopic surgical treatment is now favoured over open approaches. **Tracheal surgery** was the last theme of this session, focusing on common problems and procedures.

The **Paediatric Head and Neck** session culminated in a panel discussion, where cases of **vascular anomalies** (haemangiomas and micro- and macrocystic lymphatic malformations), **branchial and preauricular anomalies** and **lymphadenopathy** were presented and debated.

The course's first day ended with the **Middle Ear** session. **Cholesteatoma** management was addressed, emphasising possible extensive recurrent disease that determines surgical technique and demands long-term follow-up. The assessment of **retraction pockets and perforations** was discussed, together with factors influencing surgical success in their treatment.

Second day started with the **Airway** session. In the **evaluation of stridor** lecture, history-taking and examination tips were stressed. **Laryngomalacia and vocal cord paralysis** were presented, with an overview of assessment and indications for surgical treatment. Treatment of **acquired subglottic stenosis** was also addressed: either open surgery (e.g. laryngotracheal reconstruction) or more recently-developed endoscopic procedures, depending upon disease staging. Paediatric **tracheostomy technique** was also debated. It was recommended that the management of **airway foreign bodies** should be semi-elective.

An **Audiology session** followed, starting with a lecture on aetiological investigation of **sensorineural hearing loss**. The **cochlear implantation** lecture mentioned indications, surgical steps, complications and rehabilitation. The lecture on **microtia** focused on classification, work-up, hearing rehabilitation and optional cosmetic approaches.

The course's last session, **"T's A's and G's Finale"**, included an update on **otitis media with effusion**, with new insights into pathology and indications for surgical treatment. Recent protocols on **obstructive sleep apnoea** were presented. In the **tonsillectomy** lecture, different techniques were compared (tonsillectomy versus tonsillotomy, partial versus total excision).

I think this course was a comprehensive review of relevant pathologies, consolidating but also updating data with the latest scientific studies. I think this is a very good course for every ENT trainee interested in paediatric otolaryngology.