

**SYMPOSIUM**  
**ON**  
**“OTITIS MEDIA: TOTAL SOLUTIONS; PRIMARY TO TERTIARY”**  
*(Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016)*

**Report**

A symposium was organized by Sound Hearing 2030 under the aegis of Society for Sound Hearing in collaboration with National Programme for Prevention & Control of Deafness, Department of Community Medicine and Department of ENT, Maulana Azad Medical College with technical support from CBM at Maulana Azad Medical College on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The theme of the symposium was **“Otitis Media: Total Solutions; Primary to Tertiary”**.

The following were the objectives of the symposium:-

- To sensitize stakeholders about Otitis Media as a significant public health issue
- To highlight the magnitude of Otitis Media across the globe, in different regions and in India
- To address diagnosis aspects and screening protocols in context of Otitis Media
- To plan public health strategies for management of Otitis Media

The symposium was carried out as per the following agenda:-

**Registration: 9:00 am- 9:30 am**

**Welcome Address, Introductory remarks & Objectives of symposium: 9:30 am- 10:00 am- Dr Arun Agarwal and Dr MM Singh**

Coordinator- Ms Deeksha Khurana

1. Epidemiology & risk factors of Otitis Media in global, regional and Indian context (10:00 am- 10:15 am)-Dr Suneela Garg
2. Addressing Otitis Media: a global perspective-(10:15 am- 10:30 am)- Dr Shelly Chadha

**Inaugural (10:30 am- 11:00 am)-** Coordinator- Dr Charu Kohli

3. Barriers to Otitis Media care (11:00 am- 11:15 am) - Dr G.S. Meena

**Tea (11:15 am- 11:30 am)**

Coordinator- Dr Anshul Shukla

4. Diagnostic aspects of Otitis Media- Audiology, Imaging & Microbiology (11:30 am- 12:30 am)- Dr Arun Agarwal (Moderator)
  - Mr VP Saha, Dr Anjali Prakash, Dr Ravinder Kaur, Dr Beena Uppal, Dr Neelima Gupta
5. Public Health strategies for Management of Otitis Media (12:30am -12:45 pm)- Dr Saurabh Varshney
6. Screening protocol for Otits Media (12:45 pm- 1:00 pm)- Dr Nishi Gupta
7. Role of surgical interventions in Otitis Media in community (1:00 pm- 1:15 pm)- Dr Rohit Mehrotra

**Lunch (1:15 pm to 2:00 pm)**

Coordinator- Dr Archana Ramalingam

8. Role of IEC in prevention of Otitis Media (2:15 pm- 2:30 pm)- Dr Nandini Sharma & Dr Neelima Gupta
9. Role of Cochlear Implant in Otitis Media (2:30 pm- 2:45 pm)- Dr JC Passey
10. Life threatening conditions in Otitis Media (2:45pm- 3:00 pm)-Dr Sunil Dhanda

### **Highlights of the Day- Dr Arun Agarwal & Dr Suneela Garg**

The symposium was attended by over 100 participants comprising of WHO expert, ENT specialists, audiologists, public health experts, speech therapists and special educators.

Ms Deeksha Khurana- Programme Officer initiated the symposium with the famous quote of Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi- "You must be the change that you want to see in the world". She mentioned that it is an endeavour of Sound Hearing 2030 to eliminate avoidable deafness by the year 2030 and that this symposium was a very small initiative towards the cause of eliminating avoidable hearing loss.

Dr Arun Agarwal, Ex- Dean- Maulana Azad Medical College and President- Sound Hearing 2030 extended a warm welcome to the audience. Next Dr MM Singh, Director Professor- Community Medicine, MAMC explained the objectives of the symposium to all the delegates.

The first presentation was delivered by Dr Suneela Garg, Director Prof & Head, Community Medicine- MAMC regarding "Epidemiology & risk factors of Otitis Media in global, regional and Indian context". She mentioned that about 330 million persons globally are affected by Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media and it accounts for 5 million disability adjusted life years. She stated that multiple studies have shown high prevalence of otitis media in India with more than 6% experiencing the disorder. She also elaborated on the risk factors associate with Otitis Media. She concluded by saying that collaborative efforts from Ministry of Health, International Agencies, Public Health Experts, ENT surgeons, audiologists, special educators and grass root workers is required to combat this disease.

The second presentation was by Dr Shelly Chadha, Technical Officer- WHO, Geneva on "Addressing Otitis Media: a global perspective". She highlighted the high burden of CSOM in Low & Middle Income Countries which is primarily attributed to poor awareness regarding ear & hearing problems in the community. In order to address Otitis Media she mentioned that there is need to understand the prevalence and profile of ear diseases in the community, engage with health care providers and community to raise awareness. This should be followed by establishing linkages/strengthen infrastructure for treatment of CSOM and launching community based screening and intervention programmes.

This was followed by inaugural ceremony was the symposium during with Dr D.K. Tempe, Dean, Maulana Azad Medical College was the Chief Guest. The ceremony began with lighting of the lamp by all the dignitaries followed by Saraswati Vandana by the young and budding medical students of the college. Words of wisdom were given by the dignitaries at the dais viz. Dr Arun Agarwal, Dr JC Passey, Dr Suneela Garg and Dr Tempe.

The next presentation was by Dr GS Meena, Director Professor- Community Medicine, MAMC on "Barriers to Otitis Media care". He emphasised that barriers to Otitis Media care exist at individual, family and community level. He mentioned that the major barriers to Otitis Media care are lack of motivation for treatment, access of healthcare facility, inadequate screening and preventive care, late presentation to health care facility and no or incomplete treatment.

The post tea session began with panel discussion on "Diagnostic aspects of Otitis Media- Audiology, Imaging & Microbiology" which was moderated by Dr Arun Agarwal. The esteemed panelists for the session were Mr VP Saha- Assistant Director, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Dr Anjali Prakash-HoD, Department of Radio diagnosis, MAMC, Dr Ravinder Kaur-HoD, Microbiology- Lady Hardinge Medical College Dr Beena Uppal- Ex HoD, Department of Microbiology, MAMC and Dr Neelima Gupta- Professor- ENT, UCMS.

Next Dr Saurabh Varshney- HoD ENT, AIIMS Rishikesh delivered a presentation on "Public Health strategies for Management of Otitis Media". Dr Nishi Gupta HoD ENT, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital presented a talk on screening protocol for Otitis Media.

Dr Rohit Mehrotra, Head- Mehrotra ENT Hospital, Kanpur delivered a talk on "Role of surgical interventions in Otitis Media in community". During his talk, he presented details of surgical interventions for Otitis Media viz. adenoidectomy, myringotomy and grommet insertion, mastoidectomy, tympanoplasty and labyrinthectomy. Dr Rohit Mehrotra was also acknowledged for being the first supporter of Society for Sound Hearing International.

The first talk after lunch was on "Role of IEC in prevention of Otitis Media" which was presented by Dr Nandini Sharma (Director Professor- Community Medicine, MAMC) and Dr Neelima Gupta (Professor- ENT, UCMS). Dr Nandini Sharma emphasized the IEC is the cornerstone of any public health initiative. He explained the key principles to designing IEC and different forms of communication viz. Mass media and Interpersonal communication. Dr Neelima Gupta spoke about the important messages regarding Otitis Media which should be communicated. She also mentioned that posters, short films, social media, awareness drives in the community and health talks would serve as effective means of IEC in relation to Otitis Media.

Next, Dr J.C Passey, Director Professor & Head- ENT, MAMC presented the talk on "Role of Cochlear Implant in Otitis Media". He elaborated that in certain cases profound hearing loss can occur as a result of chronic otitis media (COM) thereby requiring cochlear implantation. He also explained the guidelines to implant patients with otitis media and surgical challenges of implanting a patient with otitis media.

The last presentation was by Dr Sunil Dhanda who delivered a talk on "Life threatening conditions in Otitis Media". He mentioned that although the complications associated with Otitis Media has reduced over the years due to availability of antimicrobials, wide spread use antibiotics, increased awareness of disease and increased numbers of ENT surgeons, some life threatening conditions still remain. He elaborated on Intratemporal (Mastoiditis, Petrositis, Labyrinthitis and Facial paralysis), Intracranial (Extradural abscess, Subdural abscess, Brain

abscess, Meningitis, Lateral Sinus thrombosis) and Extracranial (Sub periosteal, Bezold , Luc and Cittelli) conditions.

The symposium ended with felicitation of all the esteemed faculty members and vote of thanks to all those who had contributed to making the event a success.

## Glimpses of the Symposium

