Preface

Current Therapy in Pediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

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Editors

The soul is healed by being with children.
—Fyodor Dostoyevsky

All parents set out with expectations, hopes and dreams for their child. When a child is diagnosed with a health problem, these aspirations are altered. While one parent is hoping to see their child graduate from a university, another is praying that they can live pain free.
—Sharon Dempsey, 2008

Perhaps no area of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery invokes such impassioned and attentive concern by the clinician as does the diagnosis and management of the pediatric patient with a health problem, because we believe inherently that children represent a pure and clean subset of the human race that should be exposed only to the positive aspects of life and should not be affected by the negative influences that typically plague adults, principally during the advanced stages of life after having lived a long, significant, fruitful, and worthwhile life. Other than for elective prophylactic care, it is generally accepted that a child does not belong in a clinic or a hospital setting, since these impersonal institutional locations represent places where the sick and infirm are evaluated and treated with medications, radiation therapy, and surgery. Children represent our future, and it is a tragedy to be a witness to the possibility that the future of our species may be in jeopardy due to a health-related illness. It is therefore significant when a child with a benign, or worse, malignant lesion presents for care that the entire healthcare team takes special notice and provides their utmost and focused attention. It is the primary intention of the management team to eradicate the problem in this group of patients as soon as possible to return them to their care-free lives of happiness and joy.

This issue is devoted to those children who have the unfortunate occurrence of a lesion of the head and neck region that requires multidisciplinary management by a team of experts with advanced experience and training, and the most recent evidence-based advances in diagnosis and management at their disposal to most appropriately and efficiently diagnose, provide treatment, and eradicate the problem. The authors selected for this issue are recognized experts in these areas of head and neck pathology, and they provide the most current available options in the assessment and treatment of the child with oral and maxillofacial pathology. These excellent articles stress the importance of a team approach to these
lesions in order to most effectively manage these patients and to preserve our future.

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