

BALKAN ORL-HNS

The Official Journal of Balkan Association of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery

Volume 2 • Issue 2 • May 2025





Editor in Chief

Cem Uzun

Koç University, İstanbul, Türkiye
cemuzun@yahoo.com; cemuzun@ku.edu.tr

Deputy Editors

Raluca Grigore

UMF, "Carol Davila", Bucharest, Romania
raluca.grigore@umfcd.ro

Selin Ünsaler

Koç University, İstanbul, Türkiye
sunsaler@ku.edu.tr

Section Editors

Otology, Neurotology, Audiology and Vestibulology

Ahmet Atas

Koç University, İstanbul, Türkiye

Evis Bendo

Tirana University, Tirana, Albania

Armağan İncesulu

Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Türkiye

M. Tayyar Kalcioğlu

İstanbul Medeniyet University, İstanbul, Türkiye

Suela Sallavaci

Tirana University, Tirana, Albania

Rhinology and Sleep Apnea

Mario Milkov

Varna University, Varna, Bulgaria

Gheorghe Muhlfay

George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science, and Technology of Targu Mures, Targu Mures, Romania

Octavian Palade

Grigore Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iasi, Romania

Head and Neck, Laryngology and Salivary Glands

Nicolae Balica

Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara, Romania

Milan Stankovic

University of Nis, Nis, Serbia

Stefanos Triaridis

Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

Elvir Zrvko

University of Montenegro, Podgorica, Montenegro

Advisory Board

Rusmir Arslanagic

Sarejevo University, Sarejevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thomas Balkany

University of Miami, Florida, USA

Rumen Benchev

Sofia Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria

Serban Bertesteanu

Bucharest Medical University, Bucharest, Romania

Fuad Brkic

Tuzla University, Tuzla, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Jetmira Bulaj

Albanian Society of ORL-HNS, Tirana, Albania

Per Caye-Thomasen

University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Marina Chakar

Skopje University, Skopje, North Macedonia

Stan Cotulbea

Timisoara Medical University, Timisoara, Romania

Erika Crosetti

University of Turin, Torino, Italy

Pavel Dimov

Trakia University, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

Karen Dzhambozov

Plovdiv Medical University, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Taner Kemal Erdağ

Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir, Türkiye

Dan Fliss

Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel

Eleftherios Frekidis

University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Kemal Görür

Mersin University, Mersin, Türkiye

Günter Hafız

American Hospital, İstanbul, Türkiye

Ehab Hanna

MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA

Emanuel Helidonis

University of Crete, Crete, Greece

İbrahim Hızalan

Uludağ University, Bursa, Türkiye

Şefik Hoşal

Hacettepe University, Ankara, Türkiye



BALKAN ORL-HNS

Karl Hörmann
University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany

Qazim Hysenaj
Prishtina University, Prishtina, Kosovo

Frodita Jakimovska
Skopje University, Skopje, North Macedonia

Rajko Jovic
University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia

Ahmet R. Karasalihoğlu
Trakya University, Edirne, Türkiye

Asım Kaytaz
Acibadem University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Nesil Keleş
Istanbul University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Mete Kiroğlu
Çukurova University, Adana, Türkiye

Vladan Knezevic
International Medical Center, Podgorica, Montenegro

Gabriela Kopaceheva
Skopje University, Skopje, North Macedonia

Zgjim Limani
Prishtina University, Prishtina, Kosovo

Jacques Magnan
Marseille University, Marseille, France

Dusan Milisavljevic
University of Nis, Nis, Serbia

Eugene N. Myers
University of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA

Hesham Negm
Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

Jane Netkovski
Skopje University, Skopje, North Macedonia

Nikola Nikolovski
Skopje University, Skopje, North Macedonia

Metin Önerci
Hacettepe University, Ankara, Türkiye

Ferhan Öz
Acibadem University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Cengiz Özcan
Mersin University, Mersin, Türkiye

O. Nuri Özgirgin
Bayındır Hospital, Ankara, Türkiye

Anestis Psifidis
Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

Sarp Saraç
Koç University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Levent Sennaroğlu
Hacettepe University, Ankara, Türkiye

Dugagjin Spanca
University Clinical Centre of Kosovo, Prishtina, Kosovo

Slobodan Spremo
Banja Luka University, Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Sekib Umihanic
Tuzla University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Ömer Faruk Ünal
Koç University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Dilyana Vicheva
Plovdiv University, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Özgür Yiğit
Şişli Hamidiye Etfal Eğitim ve Araştırma Hastanesi, Istanbul, Türkiye

Birkena Qirjazi
Tirana University, Tirana, Albania

Language Editing is provided by Deanta Publishing Services Private Limited.



General Manager
Ali Şahin

Journal Managers
Deniz Kaya

Publications Coordinators
Nisanur Atıcı
Şeref Mert Gücün
Lütfiye Çetin
Gizem Doğan
Doğan Nifusi

Publications Technologies
Coordinator
Ayça Nur Sezen

Project Assistant
Ozan Şahin

Contact
Address: Büyükdere Cad. 199/6, 34394,
Şişli, İstanbul, Türkiye
Phone: +90 212 217 17 00
E-mail: info@avesyayincilik.com

Publishing Service: AVES
Address: Büyükdere Cad., 199/6 34394
Şişli, İstanbul, Türkiye
Phone: +90 212 217 17 00
E-mail: info@avesyayincilik.com
Webpage: www.avesyayincilik.com



ABOUT

About the Balkan ORL-HNS

Balkan ORL-HNS is a peer reviewed, open access, online-only journal published by the Balkan Association of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head-and Neck Surgery (<https://balkanent.org>).

Balkan ORL-HNS is a triannually journal that is published in English in January, May, and September.

All content published in the journal is permanently archived in Portico.

Aims, Scope, and Audience

Balkan ORL-HNS aims to be a good edifying journal in the Balkan peninsula and a trustful reference for the world, which publishes studies of the highest scientific, ethical and clinical value, and encourages the submission of high-quality research that advances the understanding of all aspects and sub-specialties of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. Balkan ORL-HNS also encourages researchers to submit their replication studies and the studies with negative results on common diseases in the region, which are important for the science to develop.

Balkan ORL-HNS covers a wide range of topics related to otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, including otology, rhinology, laryngology, head and neck, otoneurology, audiology, speech and swallowing pathologies, sleep apnea, facial plastics and multidisciplinary research with related sciences.

The journal publishes research articles, case reports, reviews, and letters to the editor.

The target audience of the journal includes healthcare professionals, physicians, and researchers who are interested in or working in the otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, and related disciplines in the Balkan region as well as in the world.

Open Access Policy

Balkan ORL-HNS is an open access publication.

Balkan ORL-HNS is owned and funded by the Balkan Association of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head-and Neck Surgery. Authors are not required to pay any fees during the evaluation and publication process.

All content published in the journal is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC) 4.0 International License which allows third parties to use the content for non-commercial purposes as long as they give credit to the original work. This license allows for the content to be shared and adapted for non-commercial purposes, promoting the dissemination and use of the research published in the journal.

When using previously published content, including figures, tables, or any other material in both print and electronic formats, authors must obtain permission from the copyright holder. Legal, financial and criminal liabilities in this regard belong to the author(s).

Copyright Policy

A Copyright Agreement and Acknowledgement of Authorship form should be submitted with all manuscripts. By signing this form, authors agree that the article, if accepted for publication by the Balkan ORL-HNS will be licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits third parties to share and adapt the content for non-commercial purposes by giving the appropriate credit to the original work. Authors retain the copyright of their published work in Balkan ORL-HNS.

Inclusion and Diversity Policy

In order to contribute to reduce biases in scholarly publishing, *Balkan ORL-HNS* accepts and supports the *Joint commitment for action on inclusion and diversity in publishing by applying the Minimum standards on inclusion and diversity* at its organizational framework and editorial processes.

Sex and Gender Policy

Balkan ORL-HNS contributes sex and gender equity in research and publication by applying the *Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines* at its editorial decision and review processes. Manuscripts, which are discordant to these guidelines, may be rejected.



Environment and Sustainability Policy

Balkan Association of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, and its journal *Balkan ORL-HNS* signs the *UN SDG Publishers Compact*. The Editor in Chief, Cem Uzun, is assigned as the responsible person who will take care of journal activities to be in compliance with the *UN Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG), especially with the SDG3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG4 (Quality Education), SDG5 (Gender Equality), SDG6 (Clean Water), SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG13 (Climate Action), SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Peer Review Process

Manuscripts submitted to *Balkan ORL-HNS* will go through a double anonymized peer-review process where both authors and reviewers are anonymous to each other. Each submission will be reviewed by at least two external, independent peer reviewers who are experts in their fields in order to ensure an unbiased evaluation process.

Submissions will first go through a technical evaluation process during which the editorial office staff will ensure that the manuscript was prepared and submitted in accordance with the journal's guidelines. Submissions that do not conform to the journal's guidelines will be returned to the submitting authors with technical correction requests.

Submissions that conform to the journal's guidelines will be assigned to the Editor in Chief who will assess each submission's suitability to the journal in terms of scope and quality. Submissions that are not suitable for the journal can be rejected at this stage.

For papers that are suitable for the journal, the Editor in Chief will work with Section Editors who will recruit reviewers for the manuscript. Once assigned, Section Editors can suggest the Editor in Chief to reject a manuscript, continue with the peer review process, or request revisions before further peer-review.

Section editors will submit their recommendations that are based on reports submitted by the reviewers to the Editor in Chief. Revised manuscripts will be reassessed by the Section Editors who will aim to work with the original reviewers to make a new recommendation.

The Editor in Chief is the final authority in the decision-making process for all submissions.

In the event of delays, authors will be informed of the reason for the delay and given the opportunity to withdraw their manuscript.

Once the peer-review process is completed, the authors will receive anonymous peer-review reports along with the editorial decision on their manuscript. Peer-review reports will not be posted publicly in any medium. The submitted material is considered confidential and must not be used in any way until after its publication. If it is suspected that a reviewer has appropriated an author's ideas or data, the Editorial Board will handle the matter in accordance with the relevant COPE's guideline.

Authors can recommend peer-reviewers during submission. The handling editor is the sole authority to decide whether or not recommended peer-reviewers will be invited to evaluate the manuscript.

Peer reviewers are required to adhere to the principles of COPE's Ethical Guidelines for Peer-reviewers. These guidelines provide a framework for reviewers to follow in order to ensure the integrity and fairness of the peer review process. The Editorial Board follows COPE's relevant flowchart to minimize peer review manipulation. If there is suspicion of peer review manipulation after publication, the Editorial Board will follow the appropriate flowchart of COPE.

Potential peer reviewers should inform the Editor in Chief of any possible conflicts of interest before accepting an invitation to review a manuscript. Informing the editor of any potential conflicts of interest allows them to make an informed decision about whether or not to invite the potential reviewer to participate in the review process. It also helps to ensure the integrity and transparency of the review process.

Communications between Editors and peer reviewers contain confidential information that should not be shared with third parties.

Handling Papers from Editorial Board Members

To ensure an equitable peer-review process, the *Balkan ORL-HNS* will recruit external editors for manuscripts submitted by the Journal's editorial board members. External editors will be selected based on academic qualifications and peer-review experience. We uphold the confidentiality of external editors and reviewers to preserve impartiality. Reviewers and external editors are asked to disclose any potential conflicts of interest, promoting transparency and a reliable evaluation process.



If an article's peer review is an exception to the journal's usual policy, the type of the review it received will be displayed on the article to ensure the transparency and accountability of the review process.

Disclaimer

The statements or opinions expressed in the manuscripts published in the journal reflect the views of the author(s) and not the views of the editors, editorial board, and/or publisher. The editors, editorial board, and publisher are not responsible for the content of the manuscripts and do not necessarily endorse the views expressed in them. It is the responsibility of the authors to ensure that their work is accurate and well-researched, and the views expressed in their manuscripts are their own. The editors, editorial board, and publisher simply provide a platform for the authors to share their work with the scientific community.

All published content is available online, free of charge at <https://balkanorl-hns.org>.

Ethics Statements, Journal Policies and Instructions for Authors

Please refer to the website of the journal: <https://balkanorl-hns.org>

Owner

Balkan Association of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head-and Neck Surgery (<https://balkanent.org>)

Editor in Chief

Cem Uzun

Address: Koç University, School of Medicine, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Topkapı, İstanbul, Türkiye

E-mail: cemuzun@yahoo.com and cemuzun@ku.edu.tr

Publisher: AVES

Address: Büyükdere Cad., 105/9 34394 Mecidiyeköy, Şişli, İstanbul, Türkiye

Phone: +90 212 217 17 00

E-mail: info@avesyayincilik.com

Web page: avesyayincilik.com



CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

- All Scholarly Community Stakeholders are Responsible for the Dissemination of True Information 31
Cem Uzun

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

- Characteristics of Dysphagia in Patients with COVID-19 in the Acute Care Setting—A Retrospective Study 33
Eileen Miglio, Casey Scott, Abhinav Chickakuragod, Edel McNally, Samantha Ashinoff, Amy Gottlieb, Jessica M. Pisegna
- Laryngeal Function Evaluation in Cases with COVID-19 40
Züleyha Dilek Çalışkan, Ezgi Gülşen, Eyyüp Kara, Ayşegül Batıoğlu Karaaltın, Yetkin Zeki Yılmaz, Bekir Kocazeybek, Doğukan Özbey, Abdurrahman Buğra Cengiz, Ahmet Ataş
- Treatment Management of Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss Patients: Timing and Efficacy of Hyperbaric Oxygen Intervention 45
Sen Yang, Qi Wen Zuo, Lian He, Xun Shi Zhong
- A 12-Year Clinical Experience with Pilomatrixomas in the Head and Neck Region 50
Salim Hancı, Ahmet Ömer İkiz, Ersoy Doğan, Erdener Özer, Ömer Faruk Zengin, Enver Can Öncül, Taner Kemal Erdağ
- Evaluation of Neck Ultrasound and Neck Dissection Skills Training Course 54
Cüneyt Orhan Kara, Ayşenur Meriç Hafız, Mustafa Kürşat Gökcan, Hatice Sema Başak, Günter Hafız