

Foreword

November 2005

Dear Friends,

Hereby you can find the 2005 Report of the Royal Belgian Society of Oto-rhino-laryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (2005 President: Pr Jacques Daele) entitled: "2005 B-ENT Guidelines".

It is the result of a very busy period of more than three years hard working together inside our Scientific Society. Not far from hundred colleagues (nearly a fifth of all the Belgian ENT specialists) participated in the discussions and/or the writing, coming from all the Universities, from both the North and the South of the country, from private and public practice. May I here express my greatest gratitude for helping me in this tremendous challenge and send them my congratulations for the fantastic work they did, always having been conscientious and tenacious.

Because of the possible professional and public impact of these guidelines, only a number of these guidelines are published at this moment, in agreement with international rules and highest quality standards. A second volume of guidelines will be published after control and validation, in the next months.

The final aim of such a report is to give you a Good Companion for your daily practice to benefit your patients. Evidence based medicine for medical and surgical cares when available is first aimed at giving the patient the best quality of care and secondly enhancing the cost effectiveness of those cares. Of course these goals are to be met without falling down to a rationing of the medical cares. At each moment writing the guideline, the co-workers had in mind the respect of the economic available means.

This report can be used as a manual of Good Practice, as an update to your knowledge, as a basic course for our residents and trainees, or as a ground of discussion for the meetings of our Local Group of Evaluation, but also as a reference for our medical unions, defending the highest importance of the intellectual medical act.

This report is not an end but a beginning. It will be reviewed, increased and improved regularly.

I wish you an enjoyable reading.

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