

Otolaryngology and What Does a Pediatric Otolaryngologist Do?

Cássio DN*

Department of Dental Materials and Prosthodontics, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Otolaryngology

An otolaryngologist can have numerous specializations along with otology/neurology, paediatric otolaryngology, facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, laryngology, rhinology, and head and neck diseases. An otolaryngologist usually does not want to refer you to an expert; however, diagnostic outcomes show that you have a circumstance that needs surgery. Otolaryngologists can commonly offer you both medical and surgical care [1].

The word, regardless of its length, is simply an abbreviation of otorhinolaryngology.

Ears: The treatment of hearing disorders is specific to otolaryngologists.

Nose: Chronic sinusitis is one of the maximum common medical complaints in the U.S., with around 35 million adults receiving an analysis for this illness every year. Management of the nasal hollow space additionally consists of treating allergic reactions and problems with sense of smell [2].

Throat: The diagnosis and treatment of laryngeal and upper oesophageal diseases fall under the responsibility of otolaryngologists, together with vocal difficulties and swallowing problems [3].

Head and neck: Otolaryngologists can also deal with diseases and issues that have an effect on the face, head, and neck, together with infectious diseases, trauma, deformities, and cancers. In this area, otolaryngology would possibly cross over with other specialties, such as dermatology and oral surgery.

The field of otolaryngology specializes in seven different areas. Some otolaryngologists will undertake additional study to specialize in one of them and limit their services to their uniqueness [4].

These include:

- Treating allergies with the use of medication, immunotherapy, or avoidance of triggers
- Performing surgery at the face, neck or ear for cosmetic, functional, or reconstructive purposes
- Treating or eliminating tumors of the head and neck, together with in the nose and throat
- Managing problems of the throat
- Treating ear problems, together with infections, tumors, and nerve pathway disorders affecting hearing and balance
- Attending to ENT diseases in children, including congenital anomalies and developmental delays
- Managing disorders of the nose and sinuses

What is a pediatric otolaryngologist?

A paediatric otolaryngologist (pronounced “ōtō-lar-en-gāl-e-jest”), or ear, nostril and throat (ENT) doctor, specializes in the medical and surgical care of infants, children and teens with disorders that affect the ears, nose, throat, head and neck. Pediatric otolaryngologists diagnose

and deal with a number of health conditions, including tonsillitis, laryngomalacia (a birth defect), ear infections, and sleep [5].

A pediatric otolaryngologist typically:

- Evaluates a patient’s medical history and educates the child and the child’s family about disease prevention
- Performs checks of the ear, nose, throat, head and neck
- Performs hearing and speech screenings
- Orders and interprets laboratory and imaging tests and prescribes medications
- Diagnoses and treats acute and chronic diseases and conditions that have an effect on the ears, nose, throat, head and neck together with ear and throat infections, voice container troubles, thyroid ailment, and swallowing troubles
- Performs surgical strategies at the ears, nostril, throat, head and neck, such as myringotomy (ear tube surgical procedure), tonsillectomy (tonsil removal), and cleft lip and cleft palate repair

A pediatric otolaryngologist may also be called a pediatric ear, nose, and throat doctor; children’s ENT; ENT for kids; or paediatric ENT [6].

Your child benefits from the multidisciplinary practice model used by Mayo Clinic Paediatric Otolaryngology. Your ear, nose and throat specialist might consult with other specialists to provide exactly the care your child needs. The care team might include paediatric experts in audiology, cardiology, infectious diseases, fetal and maternal medicine, other surgical specialties, pulmonology, gastroenterology, haematology/oncology, and dermatology. Your care team works with you and your child to develop a care plan based on your needs and goals [7].

Your child’s team might also include a paediatric nurse practitioner, dietitians, medical geneticists (for conditions involving genes and heredity), physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, patient educators, and child-life specialists.

Our paediatric ENT team is able to provide these comprehensive services in the most efficient and effective way possible through a range of multidisciplinary clinics for children with complex conditions. These clinics include:

Autodigestive Clinic, Velopharyngeal Insufficiency Clinic, for helping children who have speech and articulation problems, Cleft and Craniofacial Clinic, Vascular Anomalies Clinic, Latest treatments

*Corresponding author: Cássio DN, Department of Dental Materials and Prosthodontics, University of São Paulo, Brazil, E-mail: cassiodo65@gmail.com

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and technology. Mayo Clinic has long been a destination for parents seeking answers and the best treatment for their children's serious and challenging medical conditions. The clinic's leading-edge technology and treatments for children with complex ear, nose and throat issues include:

3D anatomic modelling laboratory. Paediatric radiologists create 3D models of complex anatomy from CT scans and MRI scans in order to help surgeons plan their approach [8].

Minimally invasive surgery. This approach is used to lessen tissue damage and pain. Proton beam therapy. Children with cancer stand to benefit the most from proton beam therapy, and conversely can suffer the greatest long-term harm from conventional radiation therapy because their organs are still developing.

Specialized surgeries. Mayo Clinic in Minnesota is one of the few medical centres in the United States with the expertise to perform specialized surgeries for children with ear, nose and throat disorders, such as laryngotracheal reconstruction, airway stenting, and integrated surgery and Sclerotherapy for complex vascular anomalies [9].

Innovative research focused on children with ear, nose and throat conditions, our paediatric otolaryngology team has developed innovative treatment options and includes national and international leaders in paediatric aero digestive care, paediatric airway reconstruction, and paediatric cleft lip and palate surgery. Learn more about paediatric otolaryngology research at Mayo Clinic.

Talk with your doctor about whether an innovative clinical trial

might be right for your child. In addition, Mayo Clinic is a member of the Children's Oncology Group [10]. This large collaboration among hospitals gives children access to clinical trials that offer the latest in treatments for childhood cancers.

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