

## Foreword

There is no other functional system in the human body that is challenged by as many diseases as the salivary glands are—organic, hormonal, and inflammatory conditions, and benign or malignant tumors. The salivary system is a small universe to itself. Few people are aware that, according to World Health Organization statistics, the parotid gland alone is affected by 15 different types of benign and 24 types of malignant epithelial tumors, one type of soft-tissue tumor, and three types of hemato-lymphoid tumor. It is all the more surprising that until recently there was little awareness among clinicians of the importance of salivary gland diseases. One explanation might be that these diseases are comparatively rare. However, for the patients affected, the diseases often have a severe impact on their quality of life and may even become life-threatening. A woeful lack of knowledge about them has often led to inappropriate medical treatment, with sometimes fatal consequences.

New thinking for surgical and other strategies has in the meantime emerged—moving away from subjective “the way I do it” attitudes toward a scientific, evidence-based approach. This paradigm shift is based on the development of new diagnostic and therapeutic methods. For instance, there is now a better understanding of the immunologic functions of saliva, the autoimmune basis of mechanisms associated with Sjögren syndrome, and histopathological factors that lead to recurrent tumors such as the common pleomorphic adenoma. The introduction of sialendoscopy into the diagnosis and treatment of salivary gland diseases has transformed clinical approaches, particularly with regard to salivary stones and salivary duct stenoses. The development of targeted antibody therapy is raising the hope that better treatment options may become available for patients with Sjögren syndrome.

Diseases of the salivary gland include both congenital and acquired conditions, many different acute and chronic inflammatory disorders, and a very wide range of neoplastic diseases. Optimal treatment therefore requires a multidisciplinary surgical or nonsurgical approach. With research on the physiology and pathophysiology of the salivary glands leading to new therapeutic procedures, salivary gland disease has become a field for interdisciplinary collaboration—a development that led to the foundation of the European Salivary Gland Society (ESGS) in Geneva in 2002, unifying 10 different medical disciplines. The results of this interdisciplinary diversity in basic scientific and clinical research are reflected in this book, with excellent contributions from a wide range of disciplines, all actively involved in clinical care and research on the salivary glands.

This textbook edited by Professors Patrick Bradley and Orlando Guntinas-Lichius presents an up-to-date overview of the pathophysiological background and sets new standards in the diagnosis and treatment of salivary gland diseases. The generous use of excellent diagrams, clinical images, note boxes, and bullet points has resulted in a well-illustrated book offering solutions for clinicians who are confronted in everyday practice with patients presenting with salivary gland symptoms and diseases. The book will be an important aid and information resource for all physicians—both experienced doctors and surgeons, and also those still in training—and for researchers engaged in the fascinating field of salivary gland disease.

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## Preface

Salivary gland diseases and disorders occur so frequently in patients' everyday lives that they are sometimes regarded as familiar matters not requiring any detailed knowledge. Unfortunately, this is a misperception. When symptoms originating in the salivary glands develop, they can interfere with patients' quality of life and cause absences from school or work, as well as hindering leisure activities. There are few textbooks available that focus on this organ-specific topic, and the present volume is intended to fill the gap.

We have tried to produce an extensive and comprehensive work that reflects expert opinion and the "state of the art" in the field. It is hoped that it will lead to improvements in clinical practice and that it may stimulate future research in the field of salivary gland diseases and disorders. At the time when we were being trained, topics relating to the salivary glands were rarely taught in a structured, patient-oriented way in courses for otorhinolaryngologists and head and neck surgeons. Instead, the courses tended to present a series of theoretical scenarios in which several opinions were possible and various options might be recommended to patients. The emphasis was on surgical options for benign and malignant conditions. With further reading and increasing expertise and awareness of the diseases and the processes involved in them, however, it appears that medical management is probably more important than familiarity with the surgical techniques and procedures needed. Tremendous advances have been made in diagnostic methods, with cytopathology, histopathology, biochemistry, and imaging. The ability to distinguish between ductal disease and parenchymal salivary disease using sialendoscopy has made it possible to preserve many more salivary glands than was the case in the past. Hardly any other organ is associated with as many different subtypes of benign and malignant tumors as the salivary glands. This book presents the latest insights into the molecular background of these tumors strictly in the context of their clinical and therapeutic impact.

Many pioneering physicians in European medical history have made significant contributions to knowledge about the functioning of the salivary glands and the diseases that affect them. The English anatomist Thomas Wharton (1614–1673) first described the submandibular duct; the Danish anatomist Niels Stensen (1638–1686; Latinized name Nicolaus Steno) first described the parotid duct; and the German anatomist August Rivinus (1652–1723) is associated with the earliest descriptions of the sublingual duct. The Austrian surgeon Theodor Billroth

(1829–1894) and the German pathologist Rudolf Virchow (1821–1902) described pleomorphic adenoma. More recent clinicians such as Blair, McEvedy, Watkin, Patey, Thackray, Hobsley, and Maynard in the United Kingdom, and Sobin, Seifert, Kuttner, and Miehke in Germany, along with others, established the foundations of current knowledge about saliva and the salivary glands.

The idea for this book grew from the First International Congress on Salivary Gland Diseases, held on January 27–30, 2002, in Geneva—a multidisciplinary meeting that led to the founding of the European Salivary Gland Society (ESGS). The conference was organized by the Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Geneva and was attended by 30 faculty members from 10 different clinical specialties (including otolaryngology, head and neck surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, immunology, pathology, radiology, biochemistry, physiology, radiation oncology, and infectious diseases). The meeting was a great success, and it was recognized that there was a need for multidisciplinary collaboration to advance knowledge, training and research, as well as to improve the diagnostic facilities and treatment options available for patients.

An effort has been made to cover every aspect of salivary gland diseases and disorders in the 46 chapters of this book, with sections on anatomy and evaluation, pediatric disorders, physiological disorders, benign neoplasms, malignant neoplasms, and other topics. All of the contributing authors are recognized experts in their own specialized fields in Europe.

We are grateful to our many colleagues for their contributions and expertise. We would also like to thank Mr. Stephan Konnry, Ms. Gabriele Kuhn-Giovannini, and Ms. Elisabeth Kurz at Thieme Medical Publishers for their tireless help and support during the project. Our thanks also go to Dr. Sibylle Toenjes, medical editor, and Dr. Katja Dalkowski, the medical illustrator.

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