



DEPARTMENT OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

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Welcome

Just over 8 weeks have passed since the inaugural issue of *UT ORL Update*, our departmental newsletter that seeks to describe practical issues in contemporary otorhinolaryngology. Informal, unsolicited feedback from that effort has been very positive, and we hope that this issue will be well-received as well.

We have placed an [archive](#) for UT ORL Update on our web site. Our goal is that this archive will grow to serve as an important resource for both physicians and other healthcare professionals. We encourage you to forward this email to colleagues, who may join our distribution list [here](#).

Of course, we welcome your feedback and comments. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Martin J. Citardi, MD, FACS [e-mail](#)



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Understanding the Mechanism of Allergen Immunotherapy

Amber Luong, MD, PhD [e-mail](#)

Over 50 million of people suffer from allergies a year in the United States. Many control their symptoms with over-the-counter medications and avoidance measures. A subset of allergy sufferers, approximately 3 million, has found relief with allergen immunotherapy. [Read More »](#)



Significance of Empty Sella in the Management of Spontaneous CSF Leaks

Samer Fakhri, MD [e-mail](#)

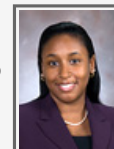
In the traditional classification of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leaks, spontaneous (or idiopathic) rhinorrhea is included under the "normal-pressure" category. As such, the absence of a recognizable etiology is axiomatic to the diagnosis of a spontaneous CSF leak. Over the last decade, however, a number of published studies described compelling demographic, clinical and radiographic characteristics common to most patients presenting with apparent spontaneous CSF leaks. [Read More »](#)



Radiesse®: A New Material for Vocal Fold Injection Augmentation

Ronda Alexander, MD [e-mail](#)

When considering vocal fold augmentation, the lynch pin of success is finding the perfect material for your patient's indication. For those patients who are either unwilling or unsuitable for operative thyroplasty, injection medialization is an important alternative. There exist a wide array of materials of different origins and effective durations. Whether artificial and permanent, like polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE aka Teflon®), or autologous and transient, like adipose harvest, each substance has advantages, inadequacies and potential complications. The most recent addition to our armamentarium, Radiesse®, is no different in this sense. [Read More »](#)



The Emerging Role for Intraoperative Imaging in Surgical Rhinology

Martin J. Citardi, MD, FACS [e-mail](#)

Over the past 12-15 years, rhinologists and general otolaryngologists have increasingly embraced the use of intraoperative surgical navigation in more complex endoscopic procedures of the paranasal sinuses. The lack of real-time imaging updates that reflect the impact of



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surgical removal of and disruption of tissue has been commonly cited as a major shortcoming for surgical navigation. In the theory, the intraoperative acquisition of new images would represent a major advance. Two recent publications discuss intraoperative imaging in endoscopic sinus surgery and thus begin to elucidate a technological solution to this key shortcoming for surgical navigation. [Read More »](#)



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