



# THE ASSOCIATION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGISTS OF INDIA

Excel ENT Hospital

501, Vishal, Above Noble Medicals, 60 Feet Road, Ghatkopar (E), Mumbai - 400 077.

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**30th November 2020**

To,  
**Shri Dr Harsh Vardhan Ji,**  
**Hon Health Minister,**  
**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,**  
**New Delhi**

**Subject:** Plea with reference to the Govt Of India Gazette notification dated 20<sup>th</sup> November regarding allowing MS Ayurveda doctors to perform ENT procedures and Surgeries.

Respected Sir,

We the members of the Association of Otolaryngologists are disturbed by the new guidelines allowing Ayurveda postgraduates in ENT to do ENT surgeries.

As you know, an ENT surgeon has to first go through a rigorous 6 years of undergraduate training as well as 3 years of postgraduate training and sometimes additional 2-3 years of working in a tertiary care centre to emerge as a competent ENT surgeon. The entire training program is as per guidelines of Medical council of India now superseded by National Medical Commission. The training program has to undergo periodic inspections which check the infrastructure and teaching-learning and competencies acquired by MS ENT. Just to gain entry into this program many brilliant aspirants have to study hard and struggle through the highly competitive NEET examinations.

Even after this rigorous training program, the qualified ENT surgeon is not assured of a government job and is often at the mercy of unorganised private healthcare system and is prone to exploitation and getting underpaid for his services. If the Ayurveda postgraduate whose course is less demanding and shorter in duration is allowed ENT surgeries he/she may skew the arena even further.

Furthermore it will confuse the patient who may not know the difference between MS ENT and MS Ayurveda and the disparity in their training. If inadequately trained MS Ayurvedas perform substandard surgery it will spoil the name of ENT as a speciality and erode the trust of patients. Those needing urgent life-saving surgery and advised so by qualified MS ENT may go for second opinion to Ayurveda surgeons not skilled in the surgery and may erroneously be advised not to undergo any surgery.



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Admittedly, surgery is a generic procedure and we, as Indians, are proud of the enormous contributions of Sushruth and his cohorts, immortalised by his eponymous treatise named Sushruth Samhita.

However our pride in our rich heritage and culture should lead us to only excel in modern surgery and not accept any dilution in standards or training of any surgical branch by superimposing ancient and obsolete techniques on newer refined ones. The advances in modern surgery have been achieved over several centuries with active contributions from several eminent doctors; Indians included. These advances were possible due to input from the fields of microbiology, anaesthesia, pharmacopeia and bio materials, all alien to Ayurveda. The modern day Ayurveda surgeons have tried to simplistically transfer these techniques to a traditional science and misappropriate a highly valued global system of Modern medicine. To allow them to do ENT surgery by an ordinance will legalise this misappropriation.

Those who wish to be treated by traditional systems are free to do so and enjoy any benefit that it affords. Medical nationalism in the name of Ayurveda will only take the medical science in our country back by a few centuries. It is our plea to you to not allow this mixing of systems which will confuse patients.

If indeed the government feels the need for more surgeons, please increase the number of post graduate seats in modern medicine in government and private institutions.

Our sincere request to reconsider the nomenclature of MS in Ayurveda and the decision to allow them to do modern surgical procedures.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr. Samir Bhargava**  
AOI President

**Dr. M. B. Bharathi**  
AOI President Elect

**Dr. Kaushal Sheth**  
AOI Secretary

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