It's All Greek to Me: Name and Substance Including Medical (Nonsurgical) Management Are Important

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What is This?
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The name of our medical specialty is very important, as is the substance it includes.

I can remember “otolaryngology” included medical (nonsurgical) and surgical management of disorders of the ears, nose, and throat. The name “head and neck surgery” was added, but is still separated by a long hyphen, and became “otolaryngology—head and neck surgery.” However, as the last word is “surgery,” this name may erroneously imply that practitioners are only surgeons, whereas “otolaryngology” still, and this must not to be forgotten, includes medical (nonsurgical) and surgical management.

One of the reasons I cofounded the “Australasian College of Ear Nose and Throat Physicians” in 2011 was to promote excellence in medical (nonsurgical) management of disorders of the ears, nose, and throat, which forms the majority of consultations for the majority of “otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeons.” A prerequisite for membership is “otolaryngology—head and neck surgery.”

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Reference