Second Edition

# Otolaryngology

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Foreword by Anthony Narula

pocket tutor



JP

# Contents

*Foreword* *v*
*Preface* *vii*
*Acknowledgements* *xi*

**Chapter 1 First principles**
1.1 The ear 1
1.2 The nose and paranasal sinuses 16
1.3 Head and neck 21

**Chapter 2 Clinical essentials**
2.1 History taking 43
2.2 Clinical examination 51
2.3 Investigations 69

**Chapter 3 Diagnostic algorithms** 75

**Chapter 4 Otology**
4.1 Clinical scenarios 81
4.2 Otitis externa 92
4.3 Acute otitis media 96
4.4 Chronic otitis media 100
4.5 Facial palsy 104
4.6 Otosclerosis 110
4.7 Presbyacusis 114
4.8 Ménière's disease 116
4.9 Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo 120
4.10 Sudden sensorineural hearing loss 124
4.11 Acoustic neuroma (vestibular schwannoma) 127
4.12 Trauma to the ear 129

**Chapter 5 Rhinology**
5.1 Clinical scenarios 133
5.2 Rhinitis 142
5.3 Chronic rhinosinusitis 147
5.4 Nasal polyps 151

5.5 Epistaxis 154
5.6 Nasal trauma 160
5.7 Granulomatous conditions of the nose and paranasal sinuses 163
5.8 Sinonasal tumours 167

**Chapter 6 Head and neck**
6.1 Clinical scenarios 173
6.2 Tonsillitis and peritonsillar abscess (quinsy) 184
6.3 Globus pharyngeus 190
6.4 Pharyngeal pouch 192
6.5 Voice disorders and vocal fold pathology 195
6.6 Thyroid swelling 202
6.7 Salivary gland diseases 206
6.8 Benign neck lumps 211
6.9 Head and neck cancer: oropharynx 215
6.10 Head and neck cancer: larynx 218
6.11 Snoring and obstructive sleep apnoea 221

**Chapter 7 Paediatric ENT**
7.1 Clinical scenarios 227
7.2 Otitis media with effusion 234
7.3 Adenotonsillar disease 238
7.4 Thyroglossal cyst 242
7.5 Paediatric hearing loss 245
7.6 Congenital ear deformities 249
7.7 The catarrhal child 254
7.8 Foreign bodies in the ear, nose and throat 258
7.9 Paediatric upper airway disorders 261

*Index* *267*

# Diagnostic algorithms

chapter 3

The aim of these diagnostic algorithms is to familiarise the reader with the decision-making process required to make a diagnosis. Analysing presenting signs and symptoms using a sequence of observations which have a binary response (such as 'yes'/'no') leads to deductive medical reasoning and helps with pattern recognition. The algorithms presented here outline clinical scenarios commonly encountered in otolaryngology, with the aim of helping trainees familiarise themselves with the differential diagnoses. In practice, many pathologies present atypically and therefore diagnosis never relies solely on algorithms.

The diagnostic algorithms in this chapter cover the following signs and symptoms:

- Facial weakness
- Hoarseness
- Otorrhea (discharging ear)
- Nasal obstruction

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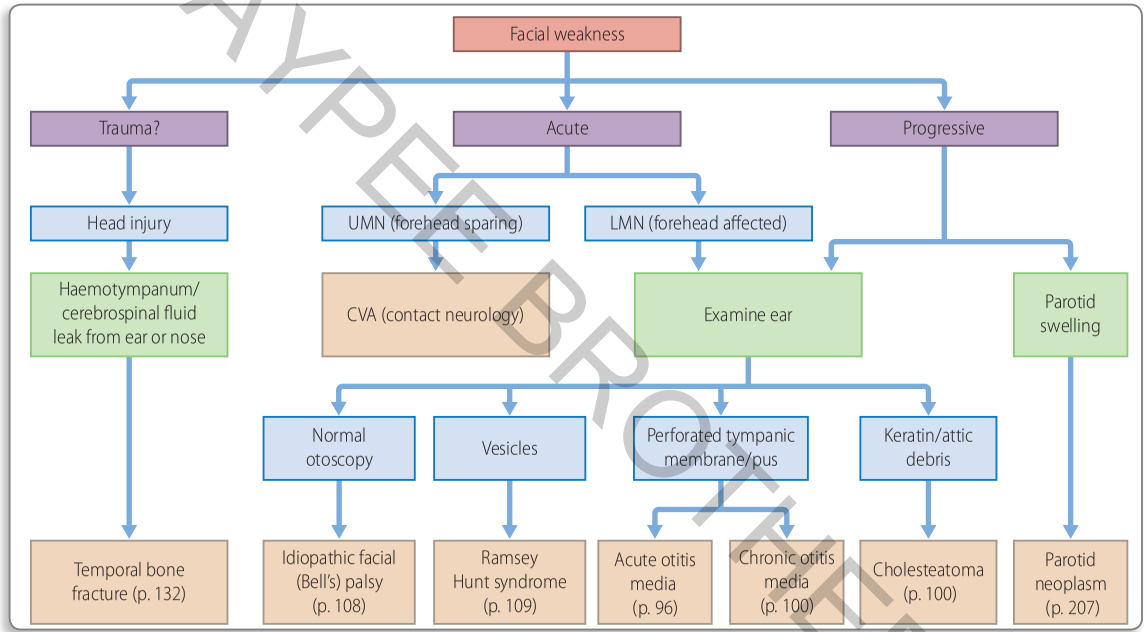


**Figure 3.1** Diagnostic algorithm for facial weakness.

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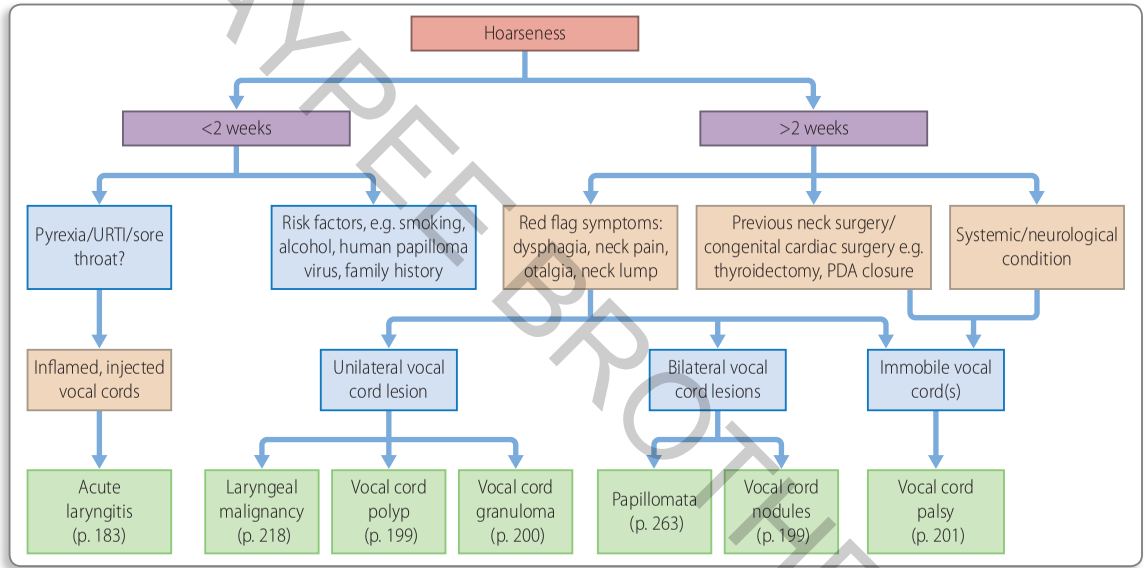


**Figure 3.2** Diagnostic algorithm for hoarseness.

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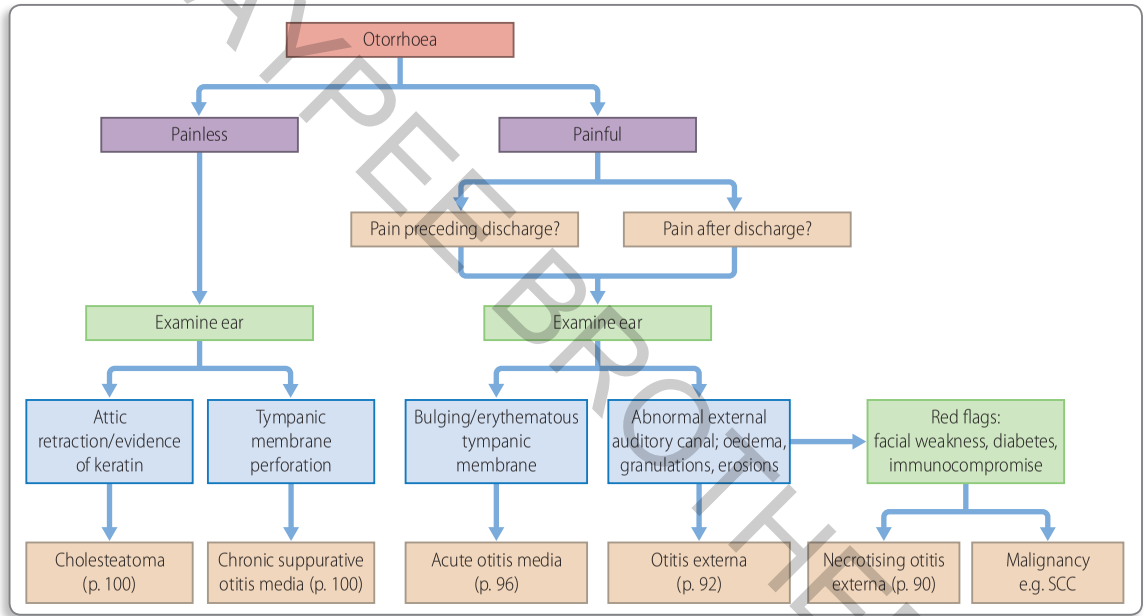


**Figure 3.3** Diagnostic algorithm for otorrhoea.

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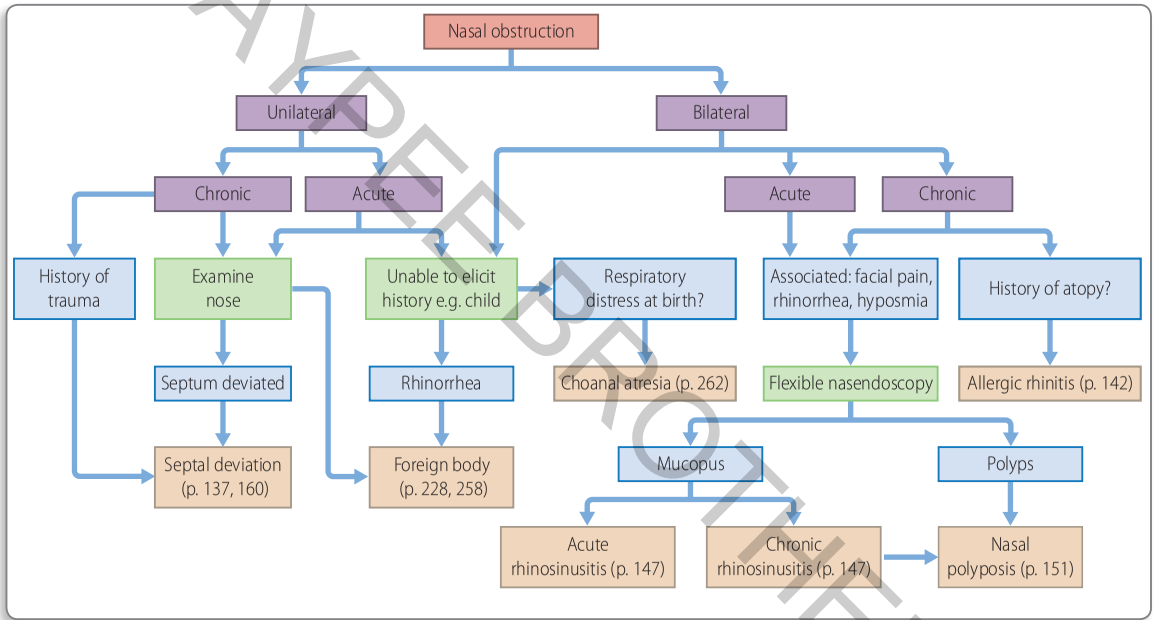


**Figure 3.4** Diagnostic algorithm for nasal obstruction.

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# Otolaryngology

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