The value of narrowband imaging using the Ni classification in the diagnosis of laryngeal cancer

Sejad Ahmadzada MBBS1,2 | Evan Tseros MBBS1 | Niranjan Sritharan FRACS1,2 | Narinder Singh FRACS1,2 | Mark Smith FRACS1,2 | Carsten E. Palme FRACS1,2 | Faruque Riffat FRACS1,2

1Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Westmead Hospital, Westmead, New South Wales, Australia
2The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Correspondence
Sejad Ahmadzada, Department of Otolaryngology, Westmead Hospital, PO Box 533, Wentworthville, NSW 2145, Australia.
Email: cj.sahm@gmail.com

Abstract

Introduction: Narrowband imaging (NBI) is a special endoscopic optical enhancement setting allowing better visualization of mucosal microvasculature compared to white light endoscopy. This study evaluates the validity of NBI using the Ni classification in the detection and differentiation of severe dysplasia (SD) and glottic squamous cell carcinoma (SCC).

Methods: Patients with suspicious vocal cord lesions underwent conventional white light endoscopy followed by clinically indicated biopsy. At the same time, NBI images were obtained and graded independently. Lesions were graded from I to V according to the Ni classification and compared to histopathological findings.

Results: Fifty-two patients were included in this study (40 SCC and 12 SD). The sensitivity and specificity of NBI in diagnosing laryngeal cancer was 95.0% (CI, 83.9%-99.4%) and 83.3% (CI, 51.6%-97.9%), respectively. The negative likelihood ratio was 0.06. Higher Ni grades correlated very strongly with more advanced disease.

Conclusions: NBI using the Ni classification is a sensitive diagnostic tool for the detection and differentiation of early neoplastic and preneoplastic glottic lesions. As higher Ni classification correlates strongly with advanced disease, it serves as a useful adjunct to white light endoscopy in the diagnosis of laryngeal cancer.

Level of Evidence: Level IV.

KEYWORDS

glottic cancer, laryngeal cancer, narrowband imaging, NBI, Ni classification

1 | INTRODUCTION

Laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is one of the most common types of head and neck cancer with a global incidence of over 170 000 patients per year, resulting in almost 95 000 deaths in 2018.1 Despite recent advances in treatment the 5-year overall survival has not changed significantly over the past 20 years.2-5 Early detection, histopathological diagnosis and treatment significantly improve prognosis, reducing both patient morbidity and mortality.6
Current workup for laryngeal cancer includes imaging such as computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and nasoendoscopy with white light.

However, various studies have demonstrated that white light endoscopy (WLE) lacks the sensitivity to detect early, superficial neoplastic lesions (carcinoma in situ, T1 or T2) or preneoplastic lesions such as severe dysplasia (SD).7, 8

Growth and progression of laryngeal SCC relies on neoangiogenesis, a process where new blood vessels are formed from the surrounding pre-existing blood vessels. This "angiogenic switch" shifts the balance in favor of proangiogenic factors, allowing for the formation of new vessels to support the metabolic requirements of the tumor.9 These new vessels lack the histological architecture and structural anatomy of pre-existing vessels, which can be detected by nasoendoscopy using WLE in later stages.10 Earlier detection of this change plays a critical role in the early diagnosis of laryngeal cancer leading to improved outcomes.

Narrowband imaging (NBI) is an optical imaging modality, which uses optical interference filters to spectrally narrow the bandwidth of light. The two wavelengths emitted from this filter include blue light (wavelength peak of 400-430 nm) and green light (wavelength peak of 515-555 nm) corresponding to the absorption peaks of hemoglobin.11 This enhances and better contrasts the mucosal microvasculature also known as intraepithelial papillary capillary loops (IPCLs).12

By observing changes in the morphology and architecture of IPCLs, NBI can play a key part in early detection of neoplasia and its role has been established in the detection of lesions in the esophagus, pharynx, and oral mucosa.13-16

In 2011, Ni and colleagues8 proposed a classification system based on the morphological changes of laryngeal IPCLs to differentiate between benign and malignant laryngeal lesions. Briefly, this system describes five patterns of change in the IPCL morphology. Types I-IV are usually associated with benign or even preneoplastic change. Type V is associated with neoplastic change and is further subdivided into Va, Vb, and Vc8 (Table 1). Previous studies have demonstrated this classification system to be more sensitive than WLE with many authors recommending NBI to be a routine part of the assessment and workup of laryngeal lesions.17, 18

The aim of this study is to evaluate the sensitivity of NBI using the Ni classification in detecting neoplastic or preneoplastic laryngeal lesions. Furthermore, we aim to assess if there is a correlation between higher Ni classification and tumor stage.

### METHODS

This study was approved by the institutional human research ethics committee (Ethics number 5424). From December 2017 to June 2019, patients presenting to the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Westmead Hospital (Sydney, Australia) were recruited if they had a clinically suspicious laryngeal lesion. These patients were referred to the tertiary head and neck clinic from either general practitioners or general otolaryngology clinics.

### TABLE 1

| Classification | Description |
|----------------|-------------|
| Type I         | Thin, oblique and arborescent vessels are interconnected and intraepithelial papillary capillary loops are almost invisible |
| Type II        | Diameter of oblique and arborescent vessels is enlarged, and intraepithelial papillary capillary loops are almost invisible |
| Type III       | Intraepithelial papillary capillary loops are obscured by white mucosa |
| Type IV        | Intraepithelial papillary capillary loops can be recognized as small dots |
| Type Va        | Intraepithelial papillary capillary loops appear as solid or hollow, with a brownish, speckled pattern and various shapes |
| Type Vb        | Intraepithelial papillary capillary loops appear as irregular, tortuous, line-like shapes |
| Type Vc        | Intraepithelial papillary capillary loops appear as brownish speckles or tortuous, line-like shapes with irregular distribution, scattered on the tumor surface |

*Source: Adapted from Ni et al.8*  
Abbreviation: IPCL, intraepithelial papillary capillary loops

The reasons for referral were patients with chronic hoarseness or voice change with a lesion on the vocal cord identified by either imaging (computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging) or nasoendoscopy.

During the consultation, an in-office nasoendoscopy was performed. The nasal cavity was anesthetized topically with cocaine (lignocaine hydrochloride 5%/phenylephrine 0.5%) spray. Nasoendoscopy was performed with an ENF-VQ transnasal flexible fibrescope connected to an Evis Exera III CV 190 light source (Olympus Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan) while patients were awake and seated. Any suspicious lesions of the vocal cords on WLE including leuko-erythroplakia, polypoid lesions, ulcerated lesions, exophytic, and endophytic lesions were captured.

The light was then switched to NBI mode where the lesions were assessed in real time and captured.

A clinically indicated biopsy was performed under general anesthesia in the operating theater. The biopsy specimens were fixed in formalin, embedded in paraffin and sent for histopathological examination. Slides were examined with hematoxylin and eosin staining by an experienced head and neck pathologist.

Lesions with a histopathological diagnosis of SCC were graded based on tumor size as carcinoma in situ (Cis), T1, T2, T3, and T4 according to the American Joint Committee on Cancer grading of glottic cancer.19 Lesions with SD on histopathology were also included. Following the histopathology results, the respective NBI images captured during in-office nasoendoscopy were independently graded according to the Ni classification.8 Any lesions considered being neoplastic on NBI were graded V (including Va, Vb, or Vc). SD received a grade of I-IVA (see Figure 1A-D).
Histopathological grades were then compared to their respective Ni classification.

Based on this, sensitivity and specificity of NBI using the Ni classification in detecting glottic cancers were calculated. Correlations between the Ni classification and grade of tumor were also measured.

Patients were excluded if they had an adverse reaction/allergy to co-phenylcaine, had previous laryngeal cancer, or were unable to tolerate nasoendoscopy. Patients with benign disease, mild or moderate dysplasia were also excluded.

The SPSS 26.0 statistical software package (SPSS, Inc, Chicago, Illinois) was used for statistical analysis. Data were found to be non-parametric by Shapiro-Wilk test and histogram analysis. Sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive values were calculated using a two-by-two cross tabulation table. Correlation between the Ni classification and tumor grade was calculated using
the Spearman’s rank-order correlation test. A P-value < .05 was considered statistically significant.

3 | RESULTS

From December 2017 to June 2019, 52 patients were included in this study with a male to female ratio of 3.5:1. The mean age was 67 (42-86).

All patients were able to tolerate an in-office nasoendoscopy for WLE and NBI assessment.

On histopathological examination 23.1% (n = 12), 13.5% (n = 7), 34.6% (n = 18), and 17.3% (n = 9) of patients were diagnosed with SD, Cis, T1, and T2, respectively (Figure 2A). Six patients who were biopsy proven SCC were staged T4 after CT examination demonstrated thyroid cartilage invasion.

Based on the Ni classification, 23.0% (n = 12) of lesions were graded type IV while 77.0% (n = 40) of patients were graded type V. Of the type V lesions, 32.7% (n = 17) were graded Va, 32.7%

3 | DISCUSSION

This study demonstrates NBI to be a sensitive diagnostic tool in the work up and management of glottic cancer. The high sensitivity of 95.0% is comparable to sensitivities reported in many previous studies.8,10,20

In 2017, Sun and colleagues18 published a systematic review and meta-analysis assessing the diagnostic value of NBI in laryngeal cancer demonstrating a pooled sensitivity of 94%. Furthermore, they demonstrated a high negative likelihood ratio of 0.08 using a likelihood ratio scattergram analysis, similar to the negative likelihood ratio of 0.06 demonstrated in this study. A limitation of their systematic review and meta-analysis however, was the low number of included studies.

Several other studies that did not meet their inclusion criteria have reported a much lower sensitivity of NBI in detecting laryngeal
In type IV and V of the Ni classification, the IPCs begin to lose the oblique and longitudinal vascular pattern seen in types I-III and appear as “brown dots.” These brown dots change morphology and become progressively fainter as the IPCs are destroyed suggesting progression of the neoplasm. Many authors have also reported the appearance of “brown dots or spots” using NBI as a sign of neoplasia and could reflect perpendicular branching of new vessels seen in growing tumors.

Recently the European Laryngological Society proposed nomenclature dividing superficial vascular changes into longitudinal and perpendicular lesions. While longitudinal vessels may be benign, perpendicular changes of IPCs (including enlarged vessel loops, dot like vessels and worm like vessels) represent precancerous and cancerous lesions.

Given the ability of NBI to detect early changes in IPC morphology using the Ni classification, many authors have suggested using NBI not only as an adjunct for workup or laryngeal cancer but also for surveillance of disease, as an “optical biopsy” to prevent unnecessary biopsies requiring general anesthesia and intraoperatively to assist in resection margins. The findings of this study suggest NBI is a useful visualization adjunct to WLE and clinical examination in monitoring known disease. However, it would need further validation, experience and greater sensitivity before it is used an “optical biopsy.”

This study is limited be the relatively small number of patients who were included. Although patients were recruited from a major tertiary head and neck clinic, the small number is reflective of a single institution study.

Although all patients tolerated nasoendoscopy well, a thorough assessment is needed for complete visualization of the lesion for a reliable assessment. This becomes difficult if the lesion is obscured by mucus, blood or excessive saliva. Furthermore lesions with leukoplakia can become difficult to assess owing the “umbrella effect” obscuring adequate assessment of underlying IPC changes. Further prospective studies are required to validate the role of NBI in surveillance for laryngeal cancer and its intraoperative use to prevent unnecessary optical biopsy.

Another finding in this study was the very strong correlation between Ni classification and primary size of tumor as suggested by a Spearman’s rank-order correlation value of 0.83. Types Va and Vb accounted for almost all of the Cis-T2 lesions while all of the lesions that were T4 were graded Vc. Most SD were graded as type IV and no lesions received a grade of I-III.

This is similar to previous studies suggesting type V on the Ni classification is strongly suggestive of neoplasia. In 2018, Mehlem and colleagues reported that Ni type IV and V had a high diagnostic accuracy for detecting laryngeal cancer with a sensitivity of 89% and specificity of 82%. Rzepakowska and colleagues compared laryngovideostroboscopy (LVS) and NBI in malignant laryngeal pathologies and demonstrated that LVS was sensitive (97.6%) in detecting malignant laryngeal pathologies. The LVS findings correlated strongly with NBI findings using the Ni classification with a spearman correlation value of 0.54.

---

cancer. Piazza and colleagues, assessed 279 patients with laryngeal cancer and reported a sensitivity of only 61% using flexible NBI alone. Although the sensitivity increased substantially to 98% when NBI was coupled with HDTV, most office based flexible video endoscopes do not have the capability of HDTV integration at the time of this writing. In a separate study, Shoffel-Havakuk and colleagues compared NBI with WLE in diagnosing laryngeal cancer and reported a sensitivity of 58.62% using NBI. However, it is important to note that the sensitivities reported in this study were based on three expert assessments of still NBI and WLE images, not histopathological diagnosis. Recently, Hosono and colleagues further reported a sensitivity of 84.4% using NBI even with high definition magnifying endoscopy. Although this is a higher sensitivity relative to Piazza et al. and Shoffel-Havakuk et al., it is much lower than the pooled sensitivity reported by Sun et al.

The reasons for the low sensitivities remain unclear but may be due to regional or institutional differences in patient referral or presentation, quality of image processing and/or method of assessment.

More recent studies, however, have demonstrated higher sensitivities of >90% when using NBI in laryngeal cancer. Yang and colleagues reported a sensitivity of 91.2% in 23 malignant lesions. Sakthivel and colleagues reported a sensitivity of 100% when using NBI with WLE. Rzepakowska and colleagues demonstrated a sensitivity of 98.8% when using NBI in diagnosing premalignant and malignant laryngeal lesions.

The high sensitivities and low negative likelihood ratio in this study suggests that NBI is a reliable tool in differentiating between benign and malignant laryngeal lesions. By contrasting and enhancing the mucosal microvasculature, early changes in IPC morphology can be detected, particularly when integrated with HDTV. This is evident in this study as 46/52 lesions were either preneoplastic change or early stage cancer. This can significantly affect patient outcomes especially since the local control with transoral laser microsurgery for early stage laryngeal cancer can be up to 85%-100%. Furthermore, the use of intraoperative NBI allows for greater precision of resection margins greatly reducing second looks and their associated complications and costs.

Another finding in this study was the very strong correlation between Ni classification and primary size of tumor as suggested by a Spearman’s rank-order correlation value of 0.83. Types Va and Vb accounted for almost all of the Cis-T2 lesions while all of the lesions that were T4 were graded Vc. Most SD were graded as type IV and no lesions received a grade of I-III.

This is similar to previous studies suggesting type V on the Ni classification is strongly suggestive of neoplasia. In 2018, Mehlem and colleagues reported that Ni type IV and V had a high diagnostic accuracy for detecting laryngeal cancer with a sensitivity of 89% and specificity of 82%. Rzepakowska and colleagues compared laryngovideostroboscopy (LVS) and NBI in malignant laryngeal pathologies and demonstrated that LVS was sensitive (97.6%) in detecting malignant laryngeal pathologies. The LVS findings correlated strongly with NBI findings using the Ni classification with a spearman correlation value of 0.54.
assess suspicious lesions. Although the Ni classification has been demonstrated to be reliable in detecting laryngeal cancer, it is still operator dependent. More studies addressing the role of inter and intraobserver reliability in the detection of laryngeal cancer are needed to validate its role in both surveillance and use as an “optical biopsy” technique.

5 CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates NBI using the Ni classification to be a sensitive diagnostic tool in the detection of early neoplastic and preneoplastic glottic lesions. Given its high sensitivity and low negative likelihood ratio, it is recommended to be a routine part of work up for laryngeal cancer as an adjunct to white light imaging.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None to report.

ORCID

Sejad Ahmadzada
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6619-9735

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Bray F, Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, Siegel RL, Torre LA, Jemal A. Global cancer statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. CA Cancer J Clin. 2018;68:394-424.
2. Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2016. CA Cancer J Clin. 2016;66:7-30.
3. Nahavandipour A, Jakobsen KK, Grønhøj C, et al. Incidence and survival of laryngeal cancer in Denmark: a nation-wide study from 1980 to 2014. Acta Oncol. 2019;58:977-982.
4. Cosetti M, Yu G-P, Schantz SP. Five-year survival rates and time trends of laryngeal cancer in the US population. Arch Otalaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2008;134:370-379.
5. Luke CG, Yeoh E, Roder DM. Exploring trends in laryngeal cancer incidence, mortality and survival: implications for research and cancer control. Asian Pac J Cancer Prev. 2008;9:397-402.
6. Zhang S-Y, Lu Z-M, Luo X-N, et al. Retrospective analysis of prognosis factors in 205 patients with laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma who underwent surgical treatment. PLoS One. 2013;8:e60157.
7. Piazza C, Del Bon F, Peretti G, Nicolai P. Narrow band imaging in endoscopic evaluation of the larynx. Curr Opin Otalaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2012;20:472-476.
8. Ni XG, He S, Xu ZG, et al. Endoscopic diagnosis of laryngeal cancer and precancerous lesions by narrow band imaging. J Laryngol Otol. 2011;125:288-296.
9. Baeriswyl V, Christofori G. The angiogenic switch in carcinogenesis. Semin Cancer Biol. 2009;19:329-337.
10. Bertino GMD, Cacciola SMD, Fernandes WBJMD, et al. Effectiveness of narrow band imaging in the detection of premalignant and malignant lesions of the larynx: validation of a new endoscopic clinical classification. Head Neck. 2015;37:215-222.
11. Davaris N, Voigt-Zimmermann S, Kropf S, Arens C. Flexible transnasal endoscopy with white light or narrow band imaging for the diagnosis of laryngeal malignancy: diagnostic value, observer variability and influence of previous laryngeal surgery. Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol. 2019;276:459-466.
12. Cosway BM, Drinnan MP, Paleri VF, Eisele DWMD. Narrow band imaging for the diagnosis of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma: a systematic review. Head Neck. 2016;38(suppl):E2358-E2367.
13. Takano JH, Yakushiji T, Kamiyama I, et al. Detecting early oral cancer: narrowband imaging system observation of the oral mucosa microvasculature. Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg. 2010;39:208-213.
14. Muto M, Minashi K, Yano T, et al. Early detection of superficial squamous cell carcinoma in the head and neck region and esophagus by narrow band imaging: a multicenter randomized controlled trial. J Clin Oncol. 2010;28:1566-1572.
15. Nguyen P, Bashirzadeh FMF, RMF H, et al. High specificity of combined narrow band imaging and autofluorescence mucosal assessment of patients with head and neck cancer. Head Neck. 2013;35:619-625.
16. Ansari UH, Wong E, Smith M, et al. Validity of narrow band imaging in the detection of oral and oropharyngeal malignant lesions: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Head Neck. 2019;41:2430-2440.
17. Mehlmus CS, Rosenberg T, Dyvig A-K, Groentved AM, Kjaergaard T, Godballe C. Can the Ni classification of vessels predict neoplasia? A systematic review and meta-analysis. Laryngoscope. 2018;128:168-176.
18. Sun CP, Han XMS, Li XMS, Zhang YMS, Du XMD. Diagnostic performance of narrow band imaging for laryngeal cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Otalaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2017;156:589-597.
19. Amin MBES, Greene F, Byrd DR, et al., eds. AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. 8th ed. Chicago, USA: Springer International Publishing: American Joint Commission on Cancer; 2017.
20. Kraft M, Fostiropoulos K, Gurtler N, Arnoux A, Davaris N, Arens C. Value of narrow band imaging in the early diagnosis of laryngeal cancer. Head Neck. 2016;38:15-20.
21. Piazza C, Cocco D, De Benedetto L, Del Bon F, Nicolaï P, Peretti G. Narrow band imaging and high definition television in the assessment of laryngeal cancer: a prospective study on 279 patients. Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol. 2010;267:409-414.
22. Shoffel-Havakuk H, Lahav Y, Meidan B, et al. Does narrow band imaging improve preoperative detection of glottic malignancy? A matched comparison study. Laryngoscope. 2017;127:894-899.
23. Hosono H, Katada C, Okamoto T, et al. Usefulness of narrow band imaging with magnifying endoscopy for the differential diagnosis of cancerous and precancerous laryngeal lesions. Head Neck. 2019;41:2555-2560.
24. Yang Y, Fang J, Zhong Q, et al. The value of narrow band imaging combined with stroboscopy for the detection of plantanate indissimilable early-stage vocal cord cancer. Acta Otalaryngol. 2018;158:400-406.
25. Sakthivel P, Sikka K, Thakar A, et al. Role of narrow band imaging in the diagnosis of laryngeal lesions: pilot study from India. Indian J Cancer. 2018;55:242-247.
26. Rzepakowska A, Sielska-Badurek E, Cruz R, Sobol M, Osuch-Wojcikiewicz E, Niemczyk K. Narrow band imaging versus narrowband imaging system observation of the oral mucosa microvasculature. J Otorhinolaryngol Relat Spec. 2016;6:147-153.
27. Zwaanbergen MA, Dikkers FG, Wedman J, Halmos GB, Van Der Laan BFAM, Plaat B. Narrow band imaging improves observer reliability in evaluation of upper aerodigestive tract lesions. Laryngoscope. 2016;126:2276-2281.
28. Muto M, Ugurumi T, Sano YI, Ohtsu A, Yoshida S. Narrow-band imaging combined with magnified endoscopy for cancer at the head and neck region. Dig Endosc. 2005;17:S23-S24.
29. Arens C, Piazza C, Andrea M, et al. Proposal for a descriptive guideline of vascular changes in lesions of the vocal folds by the committee on endoscopic laryngeal imaging of the European laryngological society. Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol. 2016;273:1207-1214.
30. Arens C, Glanz H, Voigt-Zimmermann S. Vascular lesions of vocal folds—Part 2: perpendicular vascular lesions. Laryngorhinootologie. 2015;94:738-744.
32. Stanikova L, Satankova J, Kucova H, Walderova R, Zelenik K, Kominek P. The role of narrow-band imaging (NBI) endoscopy in optical biopsy of vocal cord leukoplakia. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol*. 2017; 274:355-359.
33. Lukes P, Zabrodsky M, Lukesova E, et al. The role of NBI HDTV magnifying endoscopy in the prehistologic diagnosis of laryngeal papillomatosis and spinocellular cancer. *Biomed Res Int*. 2014;2014:285486.
34. Huang F, Yu J, Zhang F, He C, Li S, Shao J. The usefulness of narrow-band imaging for the diagnosis and treatment of vocal fold leukoplakia. *Acta Otolaryngol*. 2017;137:1002-1006.
35. Vlantis AC, Wong EWY, Ng SK, Chan JYK, Tong MCF. Narrow band imaging endoscopy of the nasopharynx for malignancy: an inter- and Intraobserver study. *Laryngoscope*. 2018;129(6):1374–1379.
36. Nogués-Sabaté A, Áviles-Jurado FX, Ruiz-Sevilla L, et al. Intra and interobserver agreement of narrow band imaging for the detection of head and neck tumors. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol*. 2018;275:2349-2354.
37. Vilaseca I, Valls-Mateus M, Nogués A, et al. Usefulness of office examination with narrow band imaging for the diagnosis of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma and follow-up of premalignant lesions. *Head Neck*. 2017;39:1854-1863.
38. De Vito A, Meccariello G, Vicini C. Narrow band imaging as screening test for early detection of laryngeal cancer: a prospective study. *Clin Otolaryngol*. 2017:42:347-353.
39. Zabrodsky M, Lukes P, Lukesova E, Boucek J, Plzak J. The role of narrow band imaging in the detection of recurrent laryngeal and Hypopharyngeal Cancer after curative radiotherapy. *Biomed Res Int*. 2014;2014:1-9.

How to cite this article: Ahmadzada S, Tseros E, Sritharan N, et al. The value of narrowband imaging using the Ni classification in the diagnosis of laryngeal cancer. *Laryngoscope Investigative Otolaryngology*. 2020;5:665–671. [https://doi.org/10.1002/lio2.414](https://doi.org/10.1002/lio2.414)