



Letter to the Editor

Reply to letter of editor "Politzer, otitis media with effusion and crenotherapy (Albert Mudry)"



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Dear Editor,

I'd like to thank Professor Mudry for the opportunity he gave me with his letter to the Editor to better clarify the method I have adopted to treat Down's syndrome children affected by otitis media with effusion (see however Introduction, line 48–54) [1].

Dr Politzer originally proposed a procedure for actively inflating the air in the middle ear with the help of a hand-held air bag, which made the eustachian tube permeable. It was based on the fact that during swallowing, compressed air within the nasopharyngeal space, which is closed on all sides, travels through the tube into the middle ear. The advantage of this instrument was that the accessory was introduced into the anterior part of the nasal fossa. Therefore, there was no need to introduce a catheter into the eustachian tube, a practice that was very impractical and often very difficult for the patient. Thanks to this system, Politzer became famous throughout the world [1,2].

In our clinical series the technique was the same, except for the nasal disposable plastic device that was introduced in the anterior part of the nostril, thus being much better tolerated by our little mental impaired patients. Moreover, and this is the original aspect of our clinical study, vaporized salt-bromine-iodine mineral water was used, whose thermal sources are widely diffuse in our country, especially in the southern parts.

However, to name this insufflating method simply Politzer is already published before in many other manuscripts on official journals of prestigious Scientific Societies (Italian Society of Otolaryngology, Society of Clinical and Thermal Medicine) [3–7].

The satisfactory result obtained in our clinical series furtherly

support the importance of Politzer original manoeuvre, even using crenotherapy, and I believe it has been a really good way to celebrate this great Scientist on his jubilee.

References

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