

## **Skull Base Surgery – A 3 Decade Journey**

**Eusebio Lorenzo Debuque, M.D.**

*President, Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons, Inc, Manila, Philippines*

Coming from a developing country, coping with the ever changing and evolving neurosurgical practice in private hospitals has always been a challenge to most private practitioners in that country.

Most private tertiary hospitals in the country for the last decade are now being managed by business or corporate groups keen on taking shares in healthcare services. The availability of new instruments and facilities are often dictated by the corporate groups in private hospitals base on their return of investments (ROI). And this often limits the options for treatment and surgical decisions making in neurosurgical cases. In situation like this, a neurosurgeon need to be resourceful in the procurement of his own special instruments. I wish to present some instruments I have personally devised for skull base surgery especially for endoscopy.

The involvement of other specialties in the management of skull base lesions appears to be trending. Otolaryngologists with special training in skull base surgery collaborates with neurosurgeons in doing transsphenoidal surgeries with the advent of endoscopy. Will this practice becomes standard or just an option?

Neurosurgeons, especially the young ones need to be keen on innovations and reinvent themselves to keep abreast with the fast progress of sub-specializations in the field of neurosurgery. Definitely, future technologies will further define the practice of skull base surgery in particular and neurosurgery in general.