More than 20 years of powered endoscopic ethmoidectomy

Dewey A. Christmas, MD; Joseph P. Mirante, MD, FACS; Eiji Yanagisawa, MD, FACS

Intranasal ethmoidectomy was described by Mosher in 1912. It was performed with limited visualization and with the use of a headlight and the early curettes and forceps available at that time. It remained a difficult procedure with limited visibility and significant morbidity.

Operative intervention for chronic sinus disease evolved, both with changes in the theory of restoration of normal function of the paranasal sinuses and the use of available technology to complete surgical procedures. Current operative techniques continue to build on the foundation of functional endoscopic sinus surgery from the work of Messerklinger that was brought to the United States by Kennedy in the 1980s.

The introduction of powered instruments by Setliff in the early 1990s has provided a refined surgical technique resulting in a higher degree of safety with good visualization, minimal bleeding, and excellent mucosal preservation.

Powered endoscopic ethmoidectomy can be com-