

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

Most of the operations performed in the ear, nose, and throat surgeries are not life saving but aimed at improving the quality of the patients existence. Consequently, the risks of the operation, the pain and suffering involved, and the social disruption caused by the operation have to be balanced against the possible benefits to the patient obtained before his approval to operate. The surgeon should consider the following factors:

- 1- Physical and mental fitness of the patient.
- 2- Social disruption to the patient and his or her family. The long period of absence from work may jeopardize a patient's job.
- 3- The pain and distress caused by the operation which may be worse than the condition.
- 4- The likely success rate of the operation.

in the treatment system and financial incentives built into various payment mechanisms, (Clark and Fax, 1993).

From this point of view, cost consideration will be discussed because these are becoming important components of clinical decision making, (Gates, 1994).