

# Otorhinolaryngology (ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery)

Ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeons diagnose, evaluate and manage diseases of the head and neck.

Their formal title is otorhinolaryngologist or otolaryngologist.

operating theatre

## Life as an ENT surgeon

You'll treat people of all ages with a wide range of diseases which is what makes being an ENT surgeon so interesting and rewarding. You'll see more children than most other surgeons apart from those in paediatrics.

You'll treat conditions that affect the senses such as hearing and balance disorders or smell and taste problems. You'll also treat patients with conditions that affect their voice, breathing and swallowing as well as those with head and neck tumours.

ENT has possibly the widest range of operations of any speciality. You could treat ear conditions such as hearing loss, childhood 'glue ear' (where the middle ear is blocked with fluid), dizziness, ear infections and perforated ear drums.

You'll treat nose conditions such as sinus infections, nasal injuries, tumours and disorders of the sense of smell and throat conditions ranging from tonsillitis through breathing problems to cancers of the mouth or throat.

You'll also be involved in facial cosmetic surgery, for example on ears and noses and facial reconstruction following trauma or cancer. You will work closely with a range of other specialists including plastic surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons and ophthalmologists.

You will spend a higher proportion of your time in outpatient clinics seeing day cases and less time in surgery than other surgeons. You will not be on-call as much as in other surgical specialities, making it easier to achieve a work-life balance.

You will make use of the latest technology including robots and lasers to treat patients which often means minimally invasive surgery and faster recovery times. Advances in care mean that you can often deliver life-changing treatment, for example helping a profoundly deaf person gain a sense of hearing and sound for the first time after cochlear implant surgery.

## How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) <sup>[1]</sup> after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) <sup>[2]</sup> and consultants on the ['Pay for doctors'](#) <sup>[3]</sup> page.

## How about the benefits?

- make a difference
- flexible and part-time working
- high income early in your career
- work anywhere in the world
- excellent pension scheme
- good holiday entitlement
- NHS discounts in shops and restaurants

## Must-have skills

- excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families
- emotional resilience, a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure
- teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams
- problem-solving and diagnostic skills
- outstanding organisational ability and effective decision-making skills
- first-class time and resource management for the benefit of patients
- a high degree of manual dexterity
- superb hand-eye co-ordination, excellent vision, and visuospatial awareness
- physical stamina to cope with the demands of surgery

## Entry requirements

Your first step is medical school. Typically, you'll need excellent GCSEs and three A or A\* passes at A level including chemistry for a five-year undergraduate degree in medicine. Many medical schools also ask for biology and others may require maths or physics.

If you already have a degree, you could study for a four-year postgraduate degree in medicine.

You'll need to pass an interview and admissions test. You'll be asked to show how you demonstrate the NHS values such as compassion and respect.

Some medical schools look to recruit a mix of students from different backgrounds and geographical areas, so your educational and economic background and family circumstances

could be considered as part of your application.

**"The crossover and interaction with other specialties is vast in ENT, including neurosurgery, plastics [plastic surgery], oral and maxillofacial surgery. We work in multidisciplinary teams with physician colleagues and other specialists including speech and language therapists and physiotherapists, which is hugely enjoyable."**

**Read Charles' story** <sup>[4]</sup>.

## **What are my chances of starting a career in ENT?**

In 2020 there were 131 applications for 23 specialty training places (a competition ratio <sup>[5]</sup> of 5.70).

## **How to become an ENT surgeon**

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year foundation programme <sup>[6]</sup> where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training <sup>[7]</sup> to become an ENT surgeon, which will take a minimum of seven years.

You may be able to train part time, for example for health reasons or if you have family or caring responsibilities.

## **Where a career as an ENT surgeon can take you**

You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as conditions of just the ear, nose or throat, paediatric ENT, skull base surgery or facial plastics
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector

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Search

- **Consultant ENT Surgeon**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant ENT Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[8]

- **ENT Doctor**

Worthing, BN11 3BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [9]

- **ENT Specialist**

Stoke on Trent, ST2 0EU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Omnes Healthcare Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [10]

- **ENT Consultant**

Chester, CH2 1UL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

- **ENT Consultant**

Brighton, BN1 3XP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Canterbury, CT1 1BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **ENT Specialist**

Stoke on Trent, ST6 6BE

Salary:

£900.00 to £1200.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Omnes Healthcare Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **ENT Specialist**

Stoke on Trent, ST6 6BE

Salary:

£900.00 to £1200.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Omnes Healthcare Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Locum ENT Consultant Surgeon with specialist interest in Paeds Otolology**

London, E9 6SR

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum ENT Consultant Surgeon with specialist interest in Paeds Otolology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **Locum ENT Consultant Surgeon with a specialist interest in Otolology**

London, E9 6SR

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum ENT Consultant Surgeon with a specialist interest in Otolology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **ENT Consultants & Registrars**

Hereford, HR1 1BB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultants & Registrars job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **ENT Healthcare Professionals**

Edinburgh, EH1 1BL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Partnering Health Ltd

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Healthcare Professionals job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **ENT Consultants & Registrars**

Oldham, OL2 5QL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultants & Registrars job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor ENT**

Romford, RM7 0AG

Salary:

£61542.00 to £99216.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **ENT Healthcare Assistant**

Gloucester, GL1 3PX

Salary:

£26000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Healthcare Assistant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **ENT Healthcare Professionals**

Edinburgh, EH1 1BL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Partnering Health Ltd

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Healthcare Professionals job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **ENT Consultants & Registrars**

Barnsley, S71 1TH

Doncaster, DN40TG

Sheffield, S5 6AZ

Sheffield, S8 0YH

Sheffield, S6 1GA

Rotherham, S639EH

Barnsley, S72 8SU

Sheffield, S10 5UB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultants & Registrars job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

- **ENT Consultants & Registrars**

Birmingham, B15 3DP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultants & Registrars job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **ENT Consultants & Registrars**

Kidderminster, DY11 6SF

Worcester, WR4 9TX

Bromsgrove, B61 0AZ

Cannock, WS11 5XY

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultants & Registrars job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **ENT Consultants & Registrars**

Tonbridge, TN12 0LB

Sittingbourne, ME10 4DT

Rochester, ME2 4UL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultants & Registrars job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Patient Pathway Coordinator ENT**

Milton Keynes, MK6 5LD

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Patient Pathway Coordinator ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Locum ENT consultant Otology**

Leicester, LE5 4PW

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum ENT consultant Otology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Consultant in Paediatric ENT**

Leeds, LS1 3EX

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Consultant in Paediatric ENT**

London, WC1E 6DG

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **SAS Doctor in ENT**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for SAS Doctor in ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor in ENT**

Wakefield, WF14DG

Salary:

£61542.00 to £99216.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

- **Trust Grade Doctor in ENT**

London, NW1 2BU

Salary:

£52656.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Grade Doctor in ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **Consultant in Paediatric ENT surgery**

Liverpool, L12 2AP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric ENT surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[35]</sup>

- **Locum Head & Neck ENT Consultant**

Blackpool, FY3 8NR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Head & Neck ENT Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Paediatric ENT Surgery**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Paediatric ENT Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

- **Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist ENT**

Nottingham, NG72UH

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **Consultant ENT - Specialist Interest in Head & Neck Surgery**

Watford, WD18 0HB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant ENT - Specialist Interest in Head & Neck Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Consultant in ENT with special interest in Otology**

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in ENT with special interest in Otology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **Consultant Radiologist with interests in Thoracic and ENT Imaging**

Coventry, CV2 2DX

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Radiologist with interests in Thoracic and ENT Imaging job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in ENT with Specialist Interest in Rhinology**

Telford, TF1 6TF

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in ENT with Specialist Interest in Rhinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **Head of Operations for Theatres, Anaesthetics, POA, Pain & ENT**

Ashford, TN24 0LZ

Salary:

£76965.00 to £88682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Head of Operations for Theatres, Anaesthetics, POA, Pain & ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Otolaryngology**

Coventry, CV2 2DX

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Otolaryngology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Paediatric Otolaryngology - Surgical**

Liverpool, L12 2AP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Paediatric Otolaryngology - Surgical job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **OMFS Consultant Surgeon**

Plymouth, PL6 8DH

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for OMFS Consultant Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

- **Consultant Hand Surgeon**

Doncaster, DN40TG

Barnsley, S71 1TH

Sheffield, S105UB

Sheffield, S80YH

Sheffield, S61GA

Rotherham, S639EH

Barnsley, S728SU

Sheffield, S56AZ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Hand Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[47]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[48]</sup>

- **Consultant Prostate Surgeon**

Southampton, SO16 6YD

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Prostate Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **Consultant Cardiac Surgeon**

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cardiac Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[50]</sup>

- **Consultant Breast Surgeon**

Barnsley, S75 2EP

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **Consultant Vascular Surgeon**

London, SE5 9RS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent  
Employer:  
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Vascular Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[52]</sup>

- **Consultant Spinal Surgeon**

Sheffield, S11 8UX

Salary:  
Negotiable

Type:  
Permanent

Employer:  
One Health Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Spinal Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[53]</sup>

- **Consultant Cleft Surgeon**

London, SE1 7EH

Salary:  
£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:  
Permanent

Employer:  
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cleft Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[54]</sup>

- **ToP Surgeon (Rotherham)**

Rotherham, S60 1FL

Salary:  
£78488.17 to £109691.14

Type:  
Permanent

Employer:  
MSI Reproductive Choices

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ToP Surgeon \(Rotherham\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[55]</sup>

- **Consultant Cardiac Surgeon**

Brighton, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cardiac Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[56]</sup>

- **Locum Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Tooting, SW17 0QT

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[57]</sup>

- **Consultant Colorectal & General Surgeon**

Watford, WD18 0HB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal & General Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[58]</sup>

- **Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon**

Worthing, BN11 2DH

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[59]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Urological Surgeon**

Northampton, NN1 5BD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Northampton General Hospital

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Urological Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[60]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Breast Surgeon**

Bristol, BS10 5NB

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

North Bristol NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[61]</sup>

- **Consultant Colorectal & General Surgeon**

Basildon/Broomfield/Southend, CM1 7ET

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal & General Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[62]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Vascular Surgeon**

Sheffield, S5 7AU

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Vascular Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[63]</sup>

- **Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon**

Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

- **Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon**

Brighton, BN1 6AG

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[65]</sup>

- **Consultant Surgeon - Orthopaedics & Trauma**

Braddan, IM4 4RJ

Salary:

£107208.00 to £185166.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manx Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Surgeon - Orthopaedics & Trauma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[66]</sup>

- **Further information**

These organisations have further information about being an ENT surgeon, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

[British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists](#) <sup>[67]</sup>

British Association of Paediatric Otolaryngology [68]

British Association of Otorhinolaryngologists (ENT UK) [69]

British Rhinological Society [70]

British Society of Otology [71]

Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations [72]

Royal College of Surgeons [73]

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh [74]

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow [75]

## Other roles that may interest you

- Audiovestibular medicine [76]
- Endocrinology and diabetes [77]
- Ophthalmology [78]
- Respiratory medicine [79]

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### Links

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