



Investigation Respondent: Doctor Ou Yang from Wuyi Hospital of Chinese Medicine, Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province

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Summary

1. Kidney transplants were done before. They were done between the 90s and 2000s, they were done by our Director Dong Wenhua. He's retired. Now we don't have access qualification.
2. Actually this surgery is hard to do, it's that we don't have the qualification, we have no access to kidney supplies.
3. Usually, people who need kidney transplant here with us, all went Guangzhou in the past 10 years or so.
4. At the provincial level, those belonging to the system of Zhongshan Hospital, the kidneys obtained by Zhongshan Hospital, their quality is good, their quality is good, and then they have more sources.
5. Organs were easy to get in the past, they were all from those unidentified bodies, or from those in prison and executed. Organs from those were relatively easy to get.
6. I have on hand some patients who have completed surgeries and come for post-surgery treatment.
7. The big guys in Guangzhou: Kidney supplies are scarce in the past several years. To start with, there have been no donations, first, there are no donations; secondly, there are very few those that are unidentified; and then the kidneys from those in prison and executed...

Investigation Recording

Nurse: Hello! Jiangmen Wuyi.

Investigator: Hello! It's Wuyi Hospital of Chinese Medicine of Jiangmen City, right? Can you hear me?

Nurse: Yes, I can hear you. Go ahead.

Investigator: Right, right. May I ask you something, that is, we have a kidney patient in the family. He's got uremia, and now the doctor is asking us to contact a hospital that can do transplant surgery as soon as possible. So we want a kidney transplant. I am inquiring if your hospital can it.

Nurse: Then I'll transfer you to Urology. You may inquire them.

Investigator: Urology, right?

Nurse: The number for the doctor is 350...9630...

Investigator: 9630, okay...

Doctor: Hello!

Investigator: Hi! There's a patient with uremia, who needs a kidney transplant...

Doctor: Our hospital doesn't do it.

Investigator: My friend had it done here in your hospital, that is why he recommended I come here. In other words, your hospital did it before.

Doctor: No, our hospital doesn't do it indeed.

Investigator: You didn't do it before either?

Doctor: No.



Investigator: Not before?

Doctor: We did it before, but, we did it before, that was in the 90s, we did it between the 90s and 2000s. But now we don't do it, we don't have access qualifications. I understand how you feel, but first let me tell you clearly...first, we did do this surgery before, it was our Director Dong who did it. It's true, Director Dong Wenhua did it, that's true. But he has retired for many years.

Investigator: Got you, got you.

Doctor: He's quite old now, he can't possibly do this surgery now. His hands are shaking, understood?

Investigator: Understood.

Doctor: Secondly, now our hospitals of Chinese medicine, the entire system of Chinese medicine—we are a hospital of Chinese medicine, right? Wuyi Hospital of Chinese Medicine—the entire system of hospitals of Chinese medicine does not have this access qualification. It's not like, when you want to do it, we can add one surgery for you. We don't have this access qualification, we can't do it, we can't do it. Without this qualification, we have no access to kidney supplies.

Investigator: Oh, no access to kidney supplies?

Doctor: Right, if we don't have this qualification...

Investigator: This is the key.

Doctor: Right, right. We have no access to kidney supplies, so you know, isn't it hard to do this surgery? Actually, this surgery itself is not hard to do, it's because we don't have this...first, we don't have this qualification, secondly, we are unable to get hold of the kidney supply.

Investigator: Ah, if this is the case...the important thing is, I also hope you can provide me with some guidance. That is to say, how I can...are there any other ways to resolve this thing, that is...

Doctor: Actually, actually this is what happened, eh, usually the patients who need kidney transplants in our place, in recent period of time, say, in the past 10 years or so, they all went to Guangzhou.

Investigator: Oh, they all went to Guangzhou.

Doctor: Yes, they all went to Guangzhou. And in Guangzhou, as far as I know, the hospitals that are good at it are those belonging to the system of Zhongshan University of Medical Science. Zhongshan hospitals are very good at it.

Investigator: Oh, Zhongshan...

Doctor: Affiliated hospitals of Zhongshan University of Medical Science...right, right, right, those hospitals affiliated to Zhongshan University of Medical Science. The surgeries done there...since they have this qualification...

Investigator: Understood.

Doctor: Those hospitals are large, since it's a city at the provincial level. They have access to kidney supplies. First, the kidneys they can get hold of are of good quality; and then they have more sources.

Investigator: Right.

Doctor: In such a small area we are already...we did it before, but now we can't do it anymore.



Investigator: Right. My friend also told me that, before in our hospital, selection was possible, or what not. It was quite easy before. How come it became so strict now?

Doctor: Right. Actually in doing a kidney transplant, there is an issue of ethics. In the past when the entire medical system, or the entire medical setting, was not this bad, this was very easy, yes, very easy. Because it was all those...those from unidentified bodies, from those executed prisoners. It was fairly easy to get those. But now, we have no way of getting those, because, first, the environment is not good, too many black markets, so the control becomes tight.

Investigator: We'll have to see if there are ways, that is, if you, doctor, can provide me with a way. Let's say, if we spend more money, can it be done?

Doctor: I...I...I still recommend you go to a larger hospital. You are also from Guangzhou, you can go to provincial hospitals in Guangzhou, or provincial hospitals in our Guangdong Province, or hospitals under the system of Zhongshan University of Medical Science. Honestly we are really...as far as I am concerned, I have no ways.

Investigator: Eh.

Doctor: Since we did this before, there are now no one in our department having done this surgery. Director Dong has retired, and no one else has done this surgery, neither do we have any way of knowing the method of doing this surgery or anything related to it. However, if you want me to make a recommendation, I can only tell you, the large hospitals at provincial level, for sure, can get hold of kidney supplies. Also, their skills are all good. This is all I can tell you.

Investigator: Now I understand. So I can only go to provincial hospitals, large hospitals, and sign up on their waiting list, or what not.

Make Doctor: Right, right. We did do it before, but I was not here back then.

Investigator: Oh, oh.

Doctor: Since...it was a decade or two decades ago that we did this surgery, because, right now, I still have relatives, patients who have done the surgery, who are still with us, receiving some follow-up treatments.

Investigator: How are they doing? How are their recoveries?

Doctor: Their recoveries are not bad.

Investigator: My friend also said, he chose a relatively young donor back then. More options back then, so it could be picked. He of course spent more money.

Doctor: Right, right, right.

Investigator: The young donors were picked.

Doctor: Right. Actually, when we ...actually when we went to those large conferences, when we chatted with those big guys from kidney transplant departments, from Guangzhou, they all said, the recent kidney supplies were very bad. They said, in recent years, the kidney supplies they got were very bad. To begin with, there are no donations. First, there are no donations. Secondly, there are very few the kind, that is, the cases where the donors are not identified. Since the public security has improved, the public security has improved, so the crime rate has dropped. And then there are no more those in prison, that is to say, the kind of kidney supplies from those executed...

Investigator: Yes, I got it.



Doctor: So, nowadays, the kidney supplies are all those from people who die of vehicle accidents, or probably those from people who die of illness are willing to make donations. They are all probably...but there are no other ways. The kidney supplies are not good, but at least they are a little better than the damaged kidneys

Investigator: Right, that's true.

Doctor: That's how things stand.

Investigator: My friend...

Doctor: Since now the setting...now the setting is not good...the suggestion I can give you is to inquire further, that is, go to those large hospitals to learn more, to see how the kidney supplies are there, okay?

Investigator: Got you, I understand what you mean, and your advice. I'll hurry over to sign up on the waiting list, go to large hospitals first to sign up on their waiting lists.

Doctor: Right, right, right. That's the best approach.

Investigator: Thank you very much! Thank you very much! What's your last name?

Doctor: So that's it, alright?

Investigator: What's your last name?

Doctor: My last name is Ou Yang.

Investigator: Oh, it's a double character last name.

Doctor: Ou Yang.

Investigator: Hi, Doctor Ou Yang!

Doctor: Eh, hi!

Investigator: Thanks a lot! Thank you very much!