



Investigation Respondent: Dr. Gao, Transplant Division, Beijing Fuwai Cardiovascular Hospital

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Summary

1. Schedule an appointment to see Director Huang, he is responsible for assessment at transplant ward.
2. The chief surgeons, including the hospital president, have a division of work among themselves.
3. The fee surgery fee is about 500,000 rmb yuan. And this does not include the assessment fee before surgery. And the fees could go even higher if you need immune agent in follow up treatment.
4. The cost for long term post surgery immune agent is roughly 2000 to 3000 rmb yuan per month, probably for a total of more than 100,000 rmb yuan per year.
5. Funds are also needed for early period assessment and organ sourcing. Donor fee is 70,000 to 80,000 rmb yuan. Later period care may need 500,000 rmb yuan for a 10-year survival.
6. Here, many director-level doctors are doing it, including Director Liu Sheng, Director Feng Lei, President Hu—President Hu Shengshou, Party Secretary Zheng Zhe, as well as Director Wang Xianqiang.
 7. We have several teams here, and surgeons take turns doing it, it'll be the chief surgeon doing it when it's his turn.
 8. There are at least five teams.
9. My last name is Gao.

Investigation Recording

Investigator: Hello, how are you?

Doctor: Hello?

Investigator: Is this the doctors' office at Transplant Division?

Doctor: Yes, hi!

Investigator: Hi! This is my situation. I want to make an inquiry. I want a heart transplant done for my mother-in-law. She already had a bypass. So now we want to ask you, if we do a transplant in your place, what should we do? Go get hospitalized or what?

Doctor: Schedule an appointment to see a doctor at the clinic. Go to the clinic first.

Investigator: Can you briefly explain to me the process? How should we prepare for it, let's say...



Doctor: You need to go to the clinic to schedule an admission. And it's not like, you could get admitted when you come here. Probably you will have to wait in line. It depends on bed availability, and then you...how's the patient doing now?

Investigator: The patient is doing okay, kept alive.

Doctor: How long has it been since she had her bypass?

Investigator: Probably more than two years

Doctor: More than two years.

Investigator: May I ask, whom should I schedule an appointment to see? The director? Who will be her surgeon?

Doctor: Right, schedule an appointment to see Director Huang Jie.

Investigator: Director Huang Jie.

Doctor: Correct. Schedule an appointment to see Director Huang Jie for a preoperative assessment. When it's time for surgery, the doctors will make a decision among them as who will be actually doing it.

Investigator: Huang Jie is very famous, right? Or is it...

Doctor: Director Huang Jie is responsible for assessment at the transplant ward. Before surgery, there has to be clear assessment as whether it can be done or not, and how to do it.

Investigator: Oh, then the surgery will be...?

Doctor: When it's time for surgery, the hospital will make the arrangement, will arrange it for you.

Investigator: Who will be the chief surgeon? So that I can...

Doctor: It's uncertain as who will be the chief surgeon. There are now several chief surgeons. A decision will be made moments right before the surgery. You don't need to worry about who will be the chief surgeon now.

What you need to consider first is, whether or not there is a need for transplant surgery, and if it can be done.

Investigator: How much money should we prepare? That is, including hospitalization and surgery. Cost needed in later period put aside for the moment.

Doctor: The surgery fee is about 500,000 rmb yuan.

Investigator: Just hospitalization...

Doctor: In later period, if you need immune agent...and this does not include the assessment fee before surgery. The fees could go even higher if you need immune agent in follow up treatment.



Investigator: Then you...

Doctor: The cost for long term post surgery immune agent is roughly 2000 to 3000 rmb yuan per month, probably for a total of more than 100,000 rmb yuan per year.

Investigator: And what I want to ask is, one of my neighbors said, he did it before, in early period, there needs to be an assessment, and there need to be a fee for the organ. Will this be included in hospitalization fees in the assessment?

Doctor: Right, right.

Investigator: Approximately how much will it be?

Doctor: 70,000 to 80,000 rmb yuan.

Investigator: Just one heart is...what's this amount for?

Doctor: This is for getting the donated organ over, there will be transportation fee, including... this is uncertain. He will tell you about it in detail when you are here.

Investigator: Oh, that's donor fee, so this amount can be paid in cash, approximately how much?

Doctor: 70,000 to 80,000 rmb yuan.

Investigator: 70,000 to 80,000 rmb yuan, right?

Doctor: Correct.

Investigator: So the hospital stay and surgical charges are about 500,000 rmb yuan. And later period care, to be decided.

Doctor: For later period care, roughly the total...the total amount roughly will need about 500,000 rmb yuan, if the patient can live for about 10 years.

Investigator: You mentioned the patient can't get admitted right away?

Doctor: No, she can't. We need to make an assessment about the patient's situation, determine if she needs a transplant. So you need to go to the clinic first. After the assessment, we will schedule an admission for you.

Investigator: Oh, so generally if...

Doctor: The admission depends on bed availability.

Investigator: Do you have a lot of patients needing such transplants? Have you done a lot of cases?



Doctor: Fuwai hospital for sure has done the most nationwide, over 100 a year.

Investigator: Oh, there needs to be an appointment, right? Typically how long will we have to wait? It's not very easy for us to get one, isn't it?

Doctor: It's hard to tell, it's hard to tell. There are definitely some patients who are unable to wait until they get this...they are unable to wait until the transplant is done. That's because, nationwide, there are too many patients needing transplants, and there are too few hearts that can, in the end, be used for transplants.

Investigator: I heard there are many patients needing liver and kidney transplants, and then there are donors who donate their hearts as well.

Doctor: Right, yes, all kinds of donors. But there are heart donors too. However, heart donors are few, for sure.

Investigator: Okay, I will think about it, and discuss it with my family. Could you tell me...that is, could you tell me two chief surgeons' names, so that I could learn more about them, since this is a big thing for our family?

Doctor: You can talk to Director Liu Sheng, Director Liu Sheng here. And Director Feng Lei, our President Hu Shengshou, Party Secretary Zheng Zhe, as well as Director Wang Xianqiang, many of our directors all do it. Alright?

Investigator: Oh, okay, I'll quickly check them out.

Doctor: That is...that is, if you decide to come get the transplant done with us, it's not up to you to decide who will be your chief surgeon. We have several teams here, and surgeons take turns doing it, it'll be the chief surgeon doing it when it's his turn, okay?

Investigator: How many teams do you have?

Doctor: Five, at least five teams.

Investigator: Oh.

Doctor: At least five.

Investigator: So it's not up to us to designate the chief surgeon.

Doctor: It's not up to you to pick, that's correct.

Investigator: Okay, I'll discuss it with my family. Is there anything else you want to tell me?

Doctor: You just come over for a check up first. As for whether or not there's definitely a need for transplant, this needs to be made certain.



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Investigator: Okay, may I have your last name, doctor?

Doctor: My last name is Gao.

Investigator: Okay, thanks!

Doctor: You don't need to contact me. When you come, talk to Director Huang, and he will be responsible for transplant assessment.

Investigator: Okay, I'll think about it. Bye.