



## Investigation Respondent: Doctor from Liver Transplant Ward, First Hospital Affiliated to Zhejiang University Medical School

Investigation Date: Jan. 20, 2022. (+86-571 87236195)

### Summary:

- 1 Wang WeiLi does children. Zhang Wei is overall management, takes care of everything.
- 2 Sometimes we have a few cases in a day, sometimes none.
- 3 Fees vary. It depends.
- 4 Transplant surgery has risks. Death happens too.

### Investigation Recording

Doctor: Hello?

Investigator: It's the First Hospital Affiliated to Zhejiang University Medical School, isn't it?

Doctor: Yes. What's up?

Investigator: This is my situation. My family member has cirrhosis. I want to contact your hospital...

Doctor: Ah, you can call the ward. This is ICU here.

Investigator: I just want to know if your hospital can do this...this liver transplant.

Doctor: For liver transplant, you need to have liver source.

Investigator: If your hospital has liver source and can do it, we will sign up on the waiting list at your hospital.

Doctor: I...for this I...please wait a minute.

Investigator: OK

(A different doctor takes over the phone)

Doctor: Hello, hi.

Investigator: Hello, hi. Doctor, this is my situation. My family member has cirrhosis. The doctor recommended liver transplant. So I want to contact your hospital to see if there are many patients waiting in line at your place. Is there a shortage of beds?

Investigator: We...do have a shortage.

Investigator: There's a shortage?

Doctor: Well, this is ICU, we can't make a decision here. You need to come over to see a doctor first, then the doctor will put you on a waiting list, and to do that, he'll have to see the patient's situation.

Investigator: I want to ask, are Doctor Wang...Wang Weili and Doctor Zhang Wei still there?

Doctor: Not right now. It's evening now, all off duty.

Investigator: Yes, but they do liver transplants, right?

Doctor: Wang Weili does children. Is your patient an adult?



Investigator: Oh, yes.

Doctor: Wang Weili does children.

Investigator: Oh. How about Zhang Wei.

Doctor: Zhang Wei...oh yeah, Zhang Wei is overall management, he takes care of everything.

Investigator: Ah, okay. How many can they do in a month? So that I have an idea when we wait in line.....

Doctor: How many in a month? That's not certain.

Investigator: Oh, just approximately?

Doctor: For sure it depends on if there is liver source.

Investigator: Right.

Doctor: Also, this is, nowadays, it's not that you can get it whenever you want. There is a unified distribution at the state level.

Investigator: Oh, at the state level? My family member is pretty concerned about...that is, the ones who does more would certainly have better expertise.

Doctor: It depends on illness status, right?

Investigator: Right. Then approximately how many operations can be done in a month?

Doctor: How many? Sometimes we have several a day. Sometimes none. It's all possible.

Investigator: Right. It's not fixed.

Doctor: Right, not fixed. If you don't have that, then you definitely can't do it, right?

Investigator: Also, do you know, approximately how much is needed for the operation? We need to get it ready.

Doctor: How much?

Investigator: Right.

Doctor: I am not very clear about this either. Anyway, you... (Turned to ask a coworker: How much will it be for a transplant?) It's not the same for everybody. Let's say.....at least, for sure, 300,000 or 400,000 rmb yuan. That's at least.

Investigator: Oh, OK.

Doctor: Not fixed.

Investigator: Then I'll get more.....

Doctor: At least.....

Investigator: Okay, then I will get more ready.

Doctor: Right. It is not fixed in the beginning. And it depends how the patient is doing, so it's not fixed. If the patient is not doing well, you will need more...how long will he stay at ICU, it's all uncertain, right? After all it's an surgery, so it has risks. And whether the surgery is successful or not, whether it's a good one, the follow up treatment is all uncertain.

Investigator: Oh.

Doctor: I really can't say.



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Investigator: It makes sense, it makes sense. If the patient is not doing well, more money will be spent, right? Is that what you mean?

Doctor: If the patient is not doing well, then...death is also a possibility.

Investigator: Eh, oh, okay...

Doctor: All surgeries have risks, right?

Investigator: Yes, that's true. All right, thank you.