



Investigation Subject: Dr. Wen Tianfu, Liver Transplant, West China Hospital, Sichuan University

Investigation Time: June 15, 2017 (+86-18980601471)

Summary:

1. For liver and kidney transplants, West China Hospital has the cheapest prices in the world.
If the liver transplant goes well, the cost will be 300,000 RMB.
A related kidney transplant costs 50,000 to 60,000 RMB; a donated kidney costs 60,000 RMB.
2. Its kidney transplantation ranks first in China, with the best quality and the largest quantity.
Its liver transplantation ranks second only to Xiehe Hospital in China.
3. We do about 500 kidney transplants per year and more than 100 liver transplants per year.
4. The hospital has a special queuing system managed by someone. We are not involved in it.
5. The National Health and Family Planning Commission has a coordinator to handle the donated livers.
6. Donors are mainly from hospitals in other places.
7. There may be four or five professors who can do (liver transplants) in our center.
8. Q: Those organs from death-row inmates or practitioners, which we used in the past, can still be used now at higher prices? The patients were healthy after transplants with organs (from practitioners). Can we pay more to get such organs now?
A: They've long gone. They were no longer used after January 2015 in entire China.

Telephone Investigation Contents:

Investigator: Hello, Wen Tianfu. May I ask if West China Hospital is still doing lots of liver transplants now?

Wen Tianfu: What's wrong? We are doing a lot.

Investigator: Then are there many patients queuing up? I originally thought of Sichuan People's Hospital, but someone told me that West China Hospital does more (liver transplants) and has cheaper prices.

Wen Tianfu: Yes, it's cheaper here. What's wrong? Of course, it's cheaper.

Investigator: Then how to queue up?

Wen Tianfu: First of all, for example, if you queue up at West China Hospital, you can get a liver if the hospital has one. While there are local people at West China Hospital. The Hospital has a basic front-to-back sequence. This is on the website of the National Health and Family Planning Commission!

Investigator: You mean every hospital and every province has its own website, right?

Wen Tianfu: No, it's a unified website. But first of all, let's take our West China Hospital as an example. Livers from brain-dead liver donor, DCD liver donor, and heartbeat-dead liver donor will satisfy, first of all, the patients in the West China region.

Investigator: Oh.



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Wen Tianfu: **Another liver source is from donation. The National Health and Family Planning Commission has a coordinator who handles the donated livers.**

Investigator: Oh, it's like this. Then can we go online to queue up? I mean the website of the National Health and Family Planning Commission. Can we go online to queue up by ourselves?

Wen Tianfu: You only need to queue up there. You need to bring the related materials. It is best to have the examination results from our West China Hospital.

Investigator: Oh, like this, then you can be recognized and queue up. We cannot do it by ourselves?

Wen Tianfu: Of course not. That's no joke. If you want to queue up, you need to bring your ID card.

Investigator: Oh, oh, this is no problem. We can take this, that is to say~

Wen Tianfu: A full set of materials.

Investigator: Speaking of donors, you mentioned the National Health and Family Planning Commission. Where did it get the donors from?

Wen Tianfu: It is a program implemented by the state. These brain-dead people, such as those who died due to cerebral hemorrhage or in car accidents, may be willing to donate their livers. They came like this.

Investigator: What you are talking about are from local area instead of other places, right?

Wen Tianfu: Some are from other places. We also send donors to other places. While they mainly come from local area.

Investigator: Oh. Then it's a platform where people can communicate, right?

Wen Tianfu: Yes, of course it's a platform. It was specially built by the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

Investigator: Oh, like this. So, all your doctors can log on to (this website), but the patients cannot, right?

Wen Tianfu: Our doctors don't care about that. That's what the state built for hospitals. There is a special queuing system in our hospital, which is managed by someone.

Investigator: Oh, there's special...

Wen Tianfu: We are not involved in it. We just wait to be informed. Once the patient has queued up, for example, if (an organ) matches my patient, in our center, probably **four or five professors can do the transplant.**

Investigator: Oh, oh.

Wen Tianfu: Then, for example, if you queue up and register with me, I'll do the surgery. If you register with Dr. Zhang, he'll do the surgery. It's like this.



Investigator: Oh, then, Mr. Wen Tianfu, do you know that donors like this are healthy? Is the organ healthy when it comes? Can you guarantee its quality?

Wen Tianfu: Of course, there's a screening system. The state requires that it must be checked. Think about it. If a person died in a car accident, he must have been in the hospital when he was rescued. He must have been in the hospital before he died from a cerebral hemorrhage. Many examinations can check the condition of the liver.

Investigator: Then your hospital must also have such cases. There are also organ donations from brain-death patients.

Wen Tianfu: Of course, there are. Many of them. **But they mainly come from hospitals in other places.**

Investigator: Oh.

Wen Tianfu: It is a nationwide network system. To put it bluntly, this is something recognized by the international community in public.

Investigator: Oh, then...

Wen Tianfu: No. This is not something to hide. It is an open platform, as I just told you.

Investigator: Then, Dr. Wen Tianfu, if I come over with the materials or to have examinations and queue up, roughly how long do I have to wait for the transplant?

Wen Tianfu: We don't know where you queue up or if your condition is serious. So, it's hard to say. It's impossible to say. This is relative, as I just told you.

Investigator: Ah, I just want to ask you about the situation. How many liver transplants do we do every year?

Wen Tianfu: **Our center does more than 100 cases per year.**

Investigator: Oh, more than 100 cases. You mentioned center. Is there anywhere else?

Wen Tianfu: It's the Liver Transplant Center of West China Hospital. Our Liver Surgery Department of West China Hospital.

Investigator: More than 100 cases per year. So, this amount is relatively large in Sichuan Province, huh?

Wen Tianfu: Not only in Sichuan Province. (This number is) **among the top in China.**

Wen Tianfu: Ah, West China Hospital. Liver transplantation in West China Hospital ranks second in China, second only to Xiehe Hospital.

Investigator: Oh, can your hospital also do kidney transplants besides liver transplants?

Wen Tianfu: Oh, **we do lots of kidney transplants. Our kidney transplantation ranks first in China.**



Investigator: Wow! Really? I have a friend who wants me to ask if your hospital does kidney transplants. I said I can help him ask.

Wen Tianfu: **Yes, we do! Especially living donor kidney transplants. Other hospitals can't beat us.**

Investigator: Wow, so many! Your hospital must be able to do more than one thousand kidney transplants per year?

Wen Tianfu: **Our kidney transplants have the best quality and the largest quantity in China. The quality of our liver transplants is absolutely the best in China,** while its quantity is not the largest.

Investigator: Then for allogeneic kidney transplant, will the patient have to wait for a long time?

Wen Tianfu: I'm not sure about that. They do such transplants, but their requirements seem to be relatively high, that is, they do not use ordinary kidneys.

Investigator: Oh, then how...

Wen Tianfu: Because the risk is relatively higher. Its effect is not as good as related liver and kidney transplants.

Investigator: That means you are very strict about (the donated organ). That's good.

Wen Tianfu: What?

Investigator: I mean you strictly control the quality of the donated organs. Of course, it's good. The (organ) quality should be good.

Wen Tianfu: Of course. Of course, we're very strict about it. That's for sure.

Investigator: Oh, at least one month. Then there are five to six hundred cases per year, adding those two.

Wen Tianfu: Yes, **around five hundred cases.**

Investigator: Oh, that's good. Then I'll let him know the situation. And your hospital has the lowest prices. What are the prices for liver and kidney transplants?

Wen Tianfu: Ah, West China Hospital has the cheapest prices in the world. That's for sure. Dare I say that.

Investigator: Then roughly how much does it cost to have a liver transplant at your hospital?

Wen Tianfu: If the liver transplant goes well, the cost will be **300,000 RMB.**

Investigator: Oh, that's cheap. What about kidney transplant?

Wen Tianfu: I'm not so clear about kidney transplants because I'm not in charge of it. It seems that **a related kidney transplant costs 50,000 to 60,000 RMB.**



Investigator: So cheap?

Wen Tianfu: Because you don't need to pay for the kidney. The kidney is from your relative, so you don't need to pay for it.

Investigator: That's right. Then for donated kidney you probably need to pay ...

Wen Tianfu: Oh, yes. Of course, if you want a donated kidney, it seems the kidney itself costs **60,000 RMB**.

Investigator: Oh. My friend also told me that in the past we used organs from donors like death-row inmates or practitioners. After transplant surgeries, the patients who used organs from practitioners were healthy. Can we pay more to obtain such (healthy) organs now?

Wen Tianfu: **They've long gone. They were no longer used after January 2015 in entire China.**

Investigator: Oh, they cannot be used now. We cannot obtain such organs even if we pay more money?

Wen Tianfu: **There is no such thing anymore. There is no such thing anymore.** There will never be any more of that. We have the same standards as the whole world, and **China no longer has that kind of (organ).**

Investigator: Thank you so much, Dr. Then I'll go to you if I go back.

Wen Tianfu: Okay, goodbye.

Investigator: Okay, goodbye, goodbye. Uh-huh.

Wen Tianfu: Okay, goodbye.