

## Investigation Recording 2019-059

**Date:** June 24, 2019 (+86-13911567814)

**Subject(s):** Doctor Zhang Zhen, Liver Transplant Center, Beijing YouAn Hospital, Capital Medical University

### Translation

Doctor Zhang: Hello?

Investigator: Hello, how are you Dr. Zhang?

Doctor Zhang: Hello!

Investigator: Hi, how are you Dr. Zhang?

Doctor Zhang: How can I help you?

Investigator: Hi, it's like this—my husband now stays in the Beijing People's Hospital and needs a liver transplant. His classmate recommended your Beijing YouAn Hospital, saying that you do a good job at liver transplantation and we should come to you. May I ask if he can be admitted if we get him transferred over here now? What's your current situation?

Doctor Zhang: Is your nationality Chinese?

Investigator: Yes, I'm from Zhejiang.

Doctor Zhang: Ah, if you get your husband transferred over, he needs to go through an assessment and get on the waiting list. These things can be found online.

Investigator: Ah, my husband is blood type B, so, approximately how long does he need to wait for his surgery?

Doctor Zhang: Generally, we can make the arrangements in one month.

Investigator: Is it possible to get it done in one or two weeks? It is an urgent case.

Doctor Zhang: You know, he must come over to get the tests done first. We'll determine how soon we need to get it done based on the test results. Such routine surgeries usually can be done within one month.

Investigator: Oh, based on your experience, the shortest wait time is less than one month, or perhaps half a month, right?

Doctor Zhang: Well, in some cases, it can be done in just a few days.

Investigator: It can be done in just a few days. It would be best if we can get it done in a few days.

Doctor Zhang: Well, the key is that you have to come over! You need to bring over his files to let us assess his condition, to see if his case is more urgent than the rest of our patients here.

Investigator: Oh, if that's the case, I'll bring you his files, but won't get the patient transferred over just yet. I'll bring over his file for you to take a look first.

Doctor Zhang: All right, ah, all right.

Investigator: Ah, so, could you please recommend a doctor for us? Which doctor is better?

Doctor Zhang: Ah, well, when do you come? Can you come over tomorrow?

Investigator: As the doctor here suggested, we need to get on the waiting lists at several hospitals, then, whichever hospital...would there be a bed available for us if we come? Would there be any vacant bed available?

Doctor Zhang: Vacant beds? We have them in the monitoring rooms.

Investigator: Oh, you do have them. So we can have one as soon as we come, right?

Doctor Zhang: Not really, but that can be rearranged according to different cases.

Investigator: You can rearrange that? So you can do that if there is an urgent case?

Doctor Zhang: Yes, that is definitely given a higher priority in our care.

Investigator: We would get higher priority care, that's good. My classmate recommended both your hospital and Chao-Yang. How many cases can be done at a hospital like yours in one year?

Doctor Zhang: We can do over 100, but fewer than 200 cases a year.

Investigator: Oh, Chao-Yang Hospital annually can do as many as...

Doctor Zhang: More or less the same, yes, that's right.

Investigator: You both are about the same?

Doctor Zhang: They cannot do as many as 300 or 400 cases, but can do around 200 cases as well.

Investigator: In the range of 200 and 300 cases. You both technically are about the same, so the patient can pick whichever is closer or faster, right?

Doctor Zhang: Ah, right, right, right. There are only four hospitals that can perform the surgeries in Beijing—Chao-Yan, Friendship, Tsinghua Changgeng, and us. That's all.

Investigator: Yes, that's right. I was told that those four hospitals are quite good.

Doctor Zhang: You see, there are only four remaining hospitals capable of performing these surgeries.

Investigator: Oh, good. If we come, which doctor should we look for? Can we tell them you sent us?

Doctor Zhang: Yes. Of course.

Investigator: Then if you...

Doctor Zhang: You can come see me directly if you come. I'll be at the outpatient clinic tomorrow.

Investigator: You go to the outpatient clinic and also can do the surgeries as well, right?

Doctor Zhang: What?

Investigator: You can also do the surgeries, as a transplant surgeon yourself, right?

Doctor Zhang: Ah, that's right!

Investigator: Oh, Dr. Zhang, may I have your full name?

Doctor Zhang: I'm Zhang Zhen.

Investigator: Your name is Zhang Zhen?

Doctor Zhang: Right, right. Our director is Wang Menglong, and we're in the same team.

Investigator: Oh, are you both in the same team from the same division?

Doctor Zhang: Yes, yes, I'll be at the surgical outpatient clinic if you come tomorrow.

Investigator: My husband will be able to see you if he comes tomorrow, right?

Doctor Zhang: Right, right.

Investigator: How about the organ quality? What kind of organs are considered good quality? The ones from younger donors?

Doctor Zhang: Oh, not really. Those (organs) that become available right before the surgery, and with relatively shorter (treatment time can be considered as good quality).

Investigator: What do you mean by shorter?

Doctor Zhang: That's referring to the treatment time before the previous operation (of removing the organ from donors, like those of car accidents or acute cerebral hemorrhages. For example, those who had received treatments for more than a month later donated their organs, but such organs may have a certain degree of damage.

Investigator: Oh, so, is it true that the younger donors, the better qualities their organs?

Doctor Zhang: Age is also a factor.

Investigator: Age matters as well, right? Can we choose a better one? Can we do that? Is there such an opportunity?

Doctor Zhang: How about this—whenever you come, whether you first go to Chao-Yang or come to us here, you get him registered first. Then we can make a decision regarding the donors' availability.

Investigator: Oh, I see, how long will it take to be discharged from the hospital after the surgery?

Doctor Zhang: Oh...usually that takes two weeks.

Investigator: Usually two weeks, it takes two weeks under normal circumstances, right?

Doctor Zhang: Right, that's right.

Investigator: All right, we'll get to those details when we come. We'll go to Chao-Yang Hospital first, then we'll be able to see you if we come tomorrow. We won't be able to find you if we don't come tomorrow, right?

Doctor Zhang: Oh, not really. It's just more convenient for you to find us since we're at the outpatient clinic tomorrow. Looking for us at other times is not convenient because we're operating the surgeries then, and no phone calls then.

Investigator: Anyways, the shortest wait time is a couple of days at your hospital. That's the shortest, right?

Doctor Zhang: Ah, yes. It depends on the patient's condition. If your patient's case is more urgent than others—as we have many patients who have end-stage liver diseases—but if the severity of the patient's case for sure surpasses that of others, then you'll get higher priority care.

Investigator: Thank you, thank you very much, all right, bye.