

Media Statement

15 January 2010

For immediate release

Singapore Doctors Treat Turban Tumour from China

For 25-year-old Ms Wu Xiao Fen, from the Yi minority in the Meng Zi County, Hong He Prefecture Yunnan Province, China, the pain on her head is not just a figure of speech. Eight years ago, a tumour the size of her thumb started growing on her head. Today, it has grown to cover 30% of her scalp.

Ms Wu Xiaofen was diagnosed with a malignant tumour of her scalp. The tumour, a malignant tumour arising from the scalp and skin, has begun to erode through the skull bone into the brain. Prior to her operation, Ms Wu was suffering from pain and bleeding from the tumour so much so that helping out at her family farm becomes a difficulty.

In October 2009, Medical Directors of Raffles Hospital, Prof Walter Tan and Dr Yang Ching Yu, together with a team of plastic surgeons from other hospitals in Singapore, went on a medical mission to Stone Forrest Hospital, Kunming under the auspice of the Singapore Bless China International. While there, they attended to Ms Wu, assessed her case and found her suitable for surgery. However, due to the complexity of the surgery, the team felt it would be best to do it with a multi-disciplinary medical team.

Upon returning to Singapore, the doctors worked out a treatment plan and sought approval from Raffles Hospital and the Asian Medical Foundation (AMF or 亚洲医疗基金会) for the treatment. A multi-disciplinary team was also assembled.

When Ms Wu arrived with her mum on 7 January 2010, the doctors re-studied her tumour with CT scans as it would have been four months since her last assessment.

On 10 January 2010, Sunday, a team of 3 plastic surgeons led by Prof Walter Tan, Specialist in Plastic Surgery and Reconstructive Surgery, operated on her to excise the tumour. The operation was then

taken over by a team of neurosurgeons, led by Dr Ng Puay Yong, who worked to remove the affected cranial bone. During the third stage, the plastic surgeons reconstructed the huge defect with a full scalp rotation flap and skin graft.

“We had anticipated that the surgery could take up to 8 hours to complete,” said Prof Walter Tan, “However, the multi-disciplinary team took less than 4 hours to complete the entire surgery. We are delighted that Ms Wu recovered so quickly and was out of the intensive care unit within 48 hours.”

The surgery and hospital stay of approximately \$56,000 is co-funded jointly by Raffles Hospital and the Asian Medical Foundation - the charity arm of Raffles Medical Group.

Said Mr Lawrence Lim, General Manager of Raffles Hospital, “The treatment for Ms Wu represents a humanitarian effort of Asian Medical Foundation and Raffles Hospital, and a contribution to the close people-to-people relationship between Singapore and the people of China and Yunnan Province of which we are pleased to be able to play a part in.”

For more information, please contact:

Ms Magdalene Lee

Deputy Manager, Corporate Communications, Raffles Medical Group

DID: (+65) 6311 1318 HP: (+65) 9673 7403 Email: lee_magdalene@rafflesmedical.com

RafflesHospital, the flagship of Raffles Medical Group, is a private tertiary hospital located in the heart of Singapore. We offer a wide range of specialist medical and diagnostic services for both inpatients and outpatients. Representing more than 30 disciplines, our team of specialists constitutes a group practice combining sub-specialty expertise and teamwork to ensure optimal, affordable and high quality care for our patients. We also have representative offices in Indonesia, Vietnam and Bangladesh, as well as associates throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

For more information, please refer to our website at www.rafflesmedicalgroup.com

###

Doctors involved in the treatment plan

Name	Specialty & designation	Role
Prof Walter <u>Tan</u> 陈长利教授	General & Plastic Surgery Consultant and Medical Director, Raffles Hospital	Responsible for putting together the medical team to carry out the surgery. Lead surgeon for the operation
A/Prof <u>Foo</u> Chee Liam	Plastic Surgery Visiting Consultant, Raffles Hospital	Responsible for carrying out the excision and reconstructive portion of the surgery.
Associate Prof <u>Tan</u> Kok Chai	Plastic Surgery Visiting Consultant, Raffles Hospital	
Dr <u>Ng</u> Puay Yong	Neurosurgery Sessional Consultant, Raffles Hospital	Responsible for the removal of the tumour from the scalp.
Dr <u>Yeo</u> Tseng Tsai	Neurosurgery Sessional Consultant, Raffles Hospital	
Dr Alex <u>Lee</u>	Anaesthesiology Raffles Hospital	Members of the anaesthetic team
Dr <u>Pay</u> Lu Lu	Anaesthesiology Raffles Hospital	
Dr <u>Yeong</u> Kuan Yuen 杨坤元医生	Diagnostic Radiology Clinical Director, Raffles Hospital	Conducted and assessed the CT scans.
Dr Nicholas Goh	Pathologist Clinical Director, Raffles Hospital	Reviewed the histology of the tumour specimens

More about Asian Medical Foundation

The Asian Medical Foundation (AMF) is a Singapore-based Charity supported by Raffles Medical Group. Incorporated as an Institution of Public Character in November 2003, the mission of AMF is to:

- Provide financial assistance to impoverished patients in need of medical or healthcare
- Promote or organise programmes for the furtherance of continued medical and health education and training for doctors and other healthcare providers
- Fund research and development to improve diagnostic, therapeutic and prophylactic procedures and the understanding of the aetiology and pathogenesis of diseases

AMF was started by a group of doctors and nurses at Raffles Medical Group who wanted to offer their medical expertise to the poor and underprivileged locally and in the region.

In Singapore, AMF works with organisations to provide care for the elderly. Examples of organisations which have benefitted from AMF are Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens and Rochor Kongsu Home for the Aged as well as community centres such as Kampong Glam Community Centre. Services provided include health screening and general examination for the underprivileged and the elderly.

Internationally, AMF provided humanitarian and financial assistance to victims of the Aceh tsunami, Nias earthquake and the Pakistan earthquake. Medical teams were sent to these areas to assist the victims.

AMF also partners schools (eg: SMU, Singapore Polytechnic and Singapore Medical Society London) and voluntary welfare organisations in support of their programmes for the underprivileged communities in the region. Countries these programmes have reached include Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

AMF also provides treatment to both Singapore and overseas urgent medical cases where medical treatment is not immediately available to the patients.