

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: Oct 31st, 2017

Patient left on table blamed on surgeon shortage

A Hong Kong surgeon, who left a liver transplant patient with an open wound for three hours to attend to another patient, has a special part-time contract because of a **severe** manpower **crunch**, the *Post* has learned.

The **rare** arrangement is given to Dr Kelvin Ng because of a serious lack of skilled doctors capable of handling complex operations at Queen Mary Hospital, the only public hospital in the city that performs transplants.

It was understood that Ng, a private doctor employed as a part-time associate professor by the hospital's partnering school, the University of Hong Kong (HKU), is now out of town and the hospital could not get hold of him.

"None of this would have happened if we had enough manpower and did not require a part-timer," Professor Lo Chung-mau, chief of HKU's liver transplant division, said.

"Part-time doctors are not normally on call for emergencies. In this case, Dr Ng was put in a very embarrassing situation because he also felt responsible for his private patient who was waiting for him with a planned surgery."

The patient was said to be in a **stable** condition after the transplant while the hospital confirmed it has received a complaint from a member of staff and was investigating.

Patients' Rights Association spokesman Tim Pang Hung-cheong urged the hospitals to give clearer guidelines to non full-time staff to ensure they would concentrate fully on treating patients.

"The three-hour wait is entirely unacceptable as it has **exposed** the patient to **risk**," Pang said.

Only seven doctors in the hospital are skillful enough to perform a liver transplant individually, which requires at least 17 years of medical training, Lo said, and the others were all **engaged** or on leave. Ng partnered with Dr Tiffany Wong Cho-lam, the patient's chief surgeon, who cancelled her holiday, after they heard the organ had been **harvested** at noon. They had opened the abdomen of the recipient in Queen Mary at around 3.30pm.

However, as they were waiting for the organ to arrive, Ng suddenly left the operation room and rushed to perform the other surgery in a private hospital, promising to return at 5pm. Ng returned at 6.30pm and finished the transplant at 10pm.

Lo added it was disappointing to see the **trend** of young surgeons leaving for the more **lucrative** private sector after they received enough training.

The understaffed public hospitals have a shortage of around 250 doctors.

Questions to think about:

- What have you learnt from this article? / What surprised or shocked you about this article?
- Why is good medical/health care important?
- What can be done to solve the problem?
- What is the trend in the developed world which is putting further pressures on our health care system? / What is the situation in developing nations with regards to health care, and how can developed nations help?



I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning: Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. severe (adj)		A: cause someone to be vulnerable or at risk / put someone in a dangerous situation / reveal (damaging) information
2. crunch (n)		B: danger
3. rare (adj)		C: remove (cells, tissue, or an organ) from a person or animal for experiment or transplant
4. stable (adj)		D: makes you rich, produces a great deal of money/profit
5. expose(d) (v)		E: a crucial point or situation, typically one at which a decision with important consequences must be made
6. risk (n)		F: a general direction in which something is developing or changing / a fashion
7. engage(d) (v)		G: very serious, great, intense (of something bad)
8. harvest(ed) (n)		H: to be busy with something/doing something
9. trend (n)		I: unusual, something which does not happen often
10. lucrative (adj)		J: (of a patient or their medical condition) not getting worse in health after an injury or operation

II: Usage of vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct. One word is used twice. One word need not be used.

1. Unfortunately the accident victim did not survive because of the _____ of his injuries. The doctors could do nothing to help him.
2. The patient has a _____ medical condition, something the doctors do not see very often, and they were wondering how best to treat him.
3. The parents were relieved to hear their daughter was in a (a) _____ condition after the (b) _____ operation. The doctors had warned them that there was high chance the operation may not be successful, but it appears to have been.
4. I could not attend the event because I _____ otherwise _____. I had already promised to do something else.
5. When the scandal _____, it went viral through social media. Soon everybody was talking about it.
6. Once an organ _____ from a donor, the operation should be performed as soon as possible to get the best results.
7. Dealing in drugs can be highly (a) _____, but the (b) _____ are high, too. You may make lots of money, but if you are caught, the penalty is high, too.
8. Luckily, I do not believe in keeping up with the most recent _____. For example, I do not believe I have to buy the latest iphone 8 just to be hip, or show off.

Challenge of the week: What do you know about the human body?

ENGLISH CORNER CAFÉ IS ALWAYS OPEN ON A TUESDAY FOR DRINKS, SNACKS, CONVERSATION & GAMES

See Ms Roberts for prizes if you know the answers!