COMMUNICATION

Professor Chengru Huang: A great doctor who is sincere, kindhearted, and trustful

Wenjie Wang

Department of Pediatric Urology, Beijing Children’s Hospital, Capital Medical University, National Center for Children’s Health, Beijing, China

Correspondence
Wenjie Wang, Department of Pediatric Urology, Beijing Children’s Hospital, Capital Medical University, National Center for Children’s Health, Beijing, China
Email: wangwenjie929@163.com

Received: 12 February, 2019; Accepted: 13 February, 2019

FIGURE 1 Photograph of Professor Chengru Huang

Chengru Huang (1926–) is one of the founders of pediatric urology in China. She graduated from the School of Medicine, Peking University in 1950. At that time, she worked as a resident doctor and assistant in the Department of Surgery, Dalian Medical College. Since 1956, she has worked in the Department of Surgery, Beijing Children’s Hospital Affiliated to Capital Medical University, and established the first pediatric urology team in 1972. Professor Huang was a visiting scholar at Monash University and Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, Australia, from 1982 to 1983. She served as a member of the editorial board of the Chinese Journal of Pediatric Surgery, the Chinese Journal of Urology, and the Mediterranean Journal of Medicine. Professor Huang was an overseas member of the British Society of Pediatric Surgery, Chairman of the First Asia Pacific Association of Pediatric Urologists, Head of the Pediatric Urology Group of the Chinese Medical Association, and former Director of Surgery of Beijing Children’s Hospital.

Prof. Huang has published more than 100 academic papers in medical journals at home and abroad. She edited the first Chinese book of Pediatric Urology in 1996 and Practical Pediatric Urology in 2006, and participated in editing of pediatric urinary texts of more than 10 domestic academic publications.

Working on the front line and advocating morality

Pediatric urology is based on urology and pediatric surgery. Pediatric surgery was available only after the founding of new China. Although the field of urology existed before this time, it mainly focused on adults. Children with urinary diseases were treated by pediatric or adult urology surgeons. Because of poor understanding of special conditions of children, such as deformities and tumors in this population, the results were often poor. Since the 1970s, the field of urology has greatly developed and pediatric urology has gradually gained attention. With assistance from the academicians Jieping Wu and Jinzhe Zhang, Professors Changti Sun and Wenbin Wu, Prof. Huang established the Department of Pediatric Urology.

DOI: 10.1002/ped4.12120

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.

©2019 Chinese Medical Association. Pediatric Investigation published by John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd on behalf of Futang Research Center of Pediatric Development.
The surgery for Pengpeng was more complicated than expected and repeatedly performed several times. In the first operation, Prof. Huang attempted left renal tumor partial resection and decompression and she removed a 1.7-kg tumor. In the second operation, a 2-kg tumor was removed. At that time, Pengpeng’s body weight was only 5.5 kg. Finally, Prof. Huang’s insistence saved a child who had struggled for his life. In May 2013 when Pengpeng came to the clinic for the last time, he was already a 17-year-old boy with a height of 173 cm. Ultrasound showed no recurrence after renal cell tumor surgery.

This is just a small example of how Prof. Huang’s team has overcome difficulties and saved critically ill patients. Prof. Huang has said “Don’t push refractory patients away. When a patient of pediatric urology visits Beijing Children’s Hospital, we can’t let this patient be transferred to other hospitals because of intractable disease!” Prof. Huang’s words are embedded in the hearts of generations of pediatric urologists. This dedication has led Prof. Huang to performing some pioneering clinical research on many pediatric urological diseases. Ideas on diagnosis and treatment, and surgical methods of many domestic pediatric urological diseases were originally proposed by Prof. Huang. She has published the earliest reports that have the largest number of hypospadias cases in China and proposed that surgery for hypospadias should be diversified and a satisfactory appearance of the penis is the ultimate goal of surgical effects. She was the first in China to propose that pyelonephrosis should be treated on both sides and to introduce the method of pyeloplasty, and has achieved satisfactory results. For pyelonephrosis that is found during labor, physicians should pay attention to follow-up observation, and strictly control surgical indications. For urinary tract trauma, she proposed to attempt to complete surgical repair in the first period and reduce the patient’s pain and treatment costs. She also proposed a pubic symphysis approach for girls with urethral trauma. With regard to the urethral valve, she first proposed to pay attention to changes in the upper urinary tract that are caused by lower urinary tract obstruction and to examine bladder function. With regard to nephroblastoma, she was the first to propose accurately performing pathological classification, and conducting comprehensive and reasonable treatment of tumors. This approach increased the cure rate up to 80% or higher, which is equivalent to the international level. With regard to rhabdomyosarcoma, she proposed to preserve organs as completely as possible for ensuring the survival rate.

Prof. Huang led her team to take risks and have no fear of difficulties. After accumulating experience for many years, diagnosis and treatment of urological diseases at Beijing Children’s Hospital have reached the leading domestic
level and an advanced level internationally. As quoted by Prof. Ning Sun, “She is a small and thin person, but can shoulder the toughest tasks.”

**Skillful technologies, and kindheartedness**

Foreskin adhesion is a small common disease in pediatric urology, but is a large problem for children’s parents. Prof. Huang has developed the most simple, safe, and effective method for freehand separation of foreskin compared with circumcision. With skillful skills and an amiable attitude, she solves the problem in a few minutes, and the cost for drug was also reduced (e.g., for erythromycin eye ointment, the total drug cost does not even exceed 5 RMB). Compared with the cost of circumcision, thousands of RMB, this result makes parents happy and grateful, which is more important than just saving money. This practical attitude is also unique in this era.

One patient commented that “Dr. Huang has a long-lasting harmony and kindness as a doctor, and medical ethics and medical style that is more prevalent in the older generation of medical workers.” “This highly responsible attitude is also helpful for curing pain.”

Dr. Huang’s simple words and deeds are the best interpretation of the benevolence of doctors. Because of the influence of Prof. Huang’s words and deeds, “all for the child” has become the creed of doctors in urology.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

We have no conflicts of interest to declare.