



中英社評

第 457 期

私營化療靜脈注射 敲響警鐘

Chemotherapy at private clinics also rings alarm bells



注射器針頭

本港私營醫療經營管理問題越揭越多，繼DR美容集團公司為顧客進行靜脈注射導致一人死亡、三人危殆留醫的嚴重事故後，本港「醫院藥劑師學會」昨日揭露，由位於商業大廈內的私家醫生診所為癌症病人進行化療靜脈注射，同樣存在極高風險，建議當局新成立的「私營醫療機構服務檢討及督導委員會」予以跟進，作出規管。

有關問題，經由專業的「醫院藥劑師協會」提出，當然值得重視和關注。據「學會」發言人指出，過去癌症病人都是在醫院內進行化療靜脈注射，但近年由於病人數目增加，部分私家醫院醫生在進行首次注射後，會建議病人轉到其私人診所內繼續餘下療程。

在此情況下，目前全港有十九家私營醫療機構，包括私家醫生診所及由多名醫生聯合經營的「中心」，為癌症病人提供化療靜脈注射服務。

私營醫生此舉，可能是為了讓癌症病人節省輪候時間及金錢，用意本無可厚非；但問題在於：化療藥物需要在絕對安全的無菌環境下進行稀釋與調配，才可以注射到病人體內，而上述私家診所或「中心」除一、兩家設有「無菌室」外，餘者大多數就在一個塑膠膠箱內進行調配，完全達不到密封隔離的標準和無菌的要求。在此情況下，不僅接受化療注射的病人有極大風險，化療藥物處理過程產生的氣霧也會隨中央空調系統四散，令診所護士及鄰近商戶的員工健康受到威脅。

就有關情況，「醫院藥劑師學會」發言人警告化療靜脈注射屬高風險治療，如私營診所化療病人的數目繼續增加，「早晚必出事」。

看來，繼DR美容集團事件之後，「醫院藥劑師學會」又為私營醫療缺乏足夠監管的問題再一次敲響警鐘，而情況的嚴重性不在「幹細胞美容」之下，二者同為靜脈注射、同樣是在非密封無菌的環境下進行，予「超級惡菌」滋生以可乘之機；而且，接受「幹細胞美容」的女士「好人好姐」，本身並無疾病，而接受化療注射的是癌症病人，本身免疫系統抵抗力已經相當低下，一旦被「超級惡菌」侵入血液及體內，後果隨時「可大可小」，甚至賠上性命也非危言聳聽。

因此，面對已經一再提出的警號，新成立的「私營醫療機構服務檢討及督導委員會」有必要加強危機感、加快工作步伐，而眼前可見的急務最少有兩大項：

一是從速界定「美容服務」與「醫療程序」的界線，列出美容院可以提供及不可以提供的「服務」範圍，包括宣傳單張及廣告上不可以出現什麼「幹細胞治療」等醫療專業科技的字眼，以防有人渾水摸魚，從中圖利，違例者必須被追究及重罰。

二是針對上述「藥劑師學會」揭露的情況，立即派人巡查十九家私家醫生診所及聯營中心，發現缺乏無菌裝置、不具備處理化療藥物條件的，必須勒令立即停止為癌症病人提供靜脈注射，以確保病人的性命安全。

就有關情況，食物及衛生局局長高永文強調，調查、規管、立法需時，不能一蹴而就。事實是，私營醫療是本港寶貴的醫療資源，七百萬人的醫療服務不可能由公營全部包攬，但經營上可以有公私之分，安全與監管上卻不能有公私之別，標準必須同樣嚴格、規管必須同樣有力，這是醫療當局不可推卸的責任。

16/10/2012 大公社評

Problems with the management of private medical care services are being exposed one after another. Following the serious incident in which one woman died and three others are still hospitalised in critical condition after receiving intravenous injections at DR beauty centre, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong yesterday pointed out that doctors treating cancer patients with chemotherapy at private clinics in commercial buildings may also pose a high risk. It suggested the newly set up Steering Committee on Review of the Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities to follow up and regulate the practice.

This problem, exposed by the professional Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong, naturally deserves attention and concern.

A spokesman for the Society said in the past, cancer patients generally received chemotherapy in hospitals. But as the number of patients increased in recent years, doctors at private hospitals, after giving their patients the first injection, would invite them to continue receiving chemotherapy at their own clinics.

As a result, there are now 19 private medical care institutions, including private clinics and "centres" jointly run by several doctors, providing chemotherapy for cancer patients.

By taking such a move, private doctors are probably aimed at saving patients time and money. Their intention is beyond reproach. But the problem lies in that medication for chemotherapy must be diluted and blended in a sterile environment before it can be injected into a patient. Only one or two of the 19 private institutions installs a "sterile room". All the rest blend medication in a plastic box, which fail to meet the requirements for isolation and sterility. Under such circumstances, they pose health risk not only to their patients but also to nurses at the clinics and staffers working in the same building, because the vapour produced during processing of chemotherapy medication will spread via the central air conditioning system.

On this, the spokesman for the Society warned that chemotherapy was high-risk treatment, so if the number of patients taking chemotherapy in private clinics continue growing, "sooner or later something will go wrong".

It seems, following the incident involving DR beauty centre, the problem of lack of supervision on private medical care services, as exposed by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong, once again rings alarm bells. The situation is no less serious than "stem cell skin care". Both administer intravenous injections in a non-isolated, non-sterile environment, offering an opportunity for [antibiotic-resistant] superbugs to grow. Moreover, those who take "stem cell skin-care" treatment are healthy ladies, but those who take chemotherapy are cancer patients. A cancer patient's own immune system is already quite weak. If superbugs invade into his body and blood system, there could be serious consequences: it may not be an alarmist talk that he could get killed.

Therefore, with the alarm bells keep ringing, the newly established Steering Committee on Review of the Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities needs to enhance its sense of crisis and speed up its work. Right now it has at least two urgent tasks.

One is to demarcate "beauty service" and "medical procedure", defining what services beauty salons may and may not provide, including banning them from using specialised terms of medical science and technology such as "stem cell treatment" on their publicity brochures and advertisements, so as not to give any chance for some people to fish in muddied waters and make profits. Violators should be investigated and severely punished.

The second is to send personnel to inspect the 19 private clinics and jointly run centres, based on what has been exposed by the

Society of Hospital Pharmacists. Those which are found to lack sterile facilities and not qualified for processing chemotherapy medication must be immediately ordered to stop giving patients intravenous injections, so as to protect their life safety.

In regard to this, Secretary for Food and Health Ko Wing-man stressed that investigation, regulation and legislation took time and thus could not be done at one stroke. In fact, private medical care is an invaluable medical care resource in Hong Kong. It is impossible for public medical care to take on all medical care services for seven million people. Nevertheless, while in business operation there is distinction between public and private sectors, in regard to safety and supervision both must be treated equally with the same strict standards and regulations. This is medical authority's unshirkable responsibility. 16 October 2012

Words and Usage

Beyond reproach (idiom) - Blameless, faultless. (無可非議)

Examples: 1. Jean's conduct at school is beyond reproach. 2. His manners are beyond reproach - I've never met anyone so polite.

Sterile (adj.) - Clean and free of bacteria and germs. (消過毒的，無菌的)

Examples: 1. The high risk of infection puts a premium on the use of sterile needles. 2. Thoroughly washing and disinfecting of a building may not necessarily render it sterile.

Ring/sound alarm bells (idiom) - If something rings/sounds alarm bells, it makes you start to worry because it is a sign that there may be a problem.

Examples: 1. The name rang alarm bells in her mind. 2. The report about worldwide climate change should sound alarm bells in every community.

Superbug, super germ (noun) - 即超級細菌，是對所有對抗生素有抗藥性的細菌的統稱。由於人們濫用抗生素，使一些病菌迅速適應環境產生抗藥性，變成各種超級細菌。超級病菌的可怕之處在於它對殺菌藥物——抗生素的抵抗力，現在對這種病菌幾乎無藥可用。

At a stroke (idiom) - (Something happens) as a result of one sudden action or event. (一下子，一舉)

Examples: 1. I wish I could pass on all my knowledge at one stroke to these young people. 2. An oak is not felled at one stroke.

時事點睛

美容行業須從嚴規管

美容 (Facial make-up, art of) 讓容貌變美麗的一種藝術。最早源於古希臘的「kosmetikos」，意為「裝飾」。考古學家從那一時期發掘的文物中考證，在當時，染料和香水已異地交換使用。到公元前5000年，黑錫粉未被用作描眉和染眉，鉛被用來畫眼線，綠孔雀石被用來畫眼影等，令人驚奇的是，古代婦女化妝與現代婦女有着驚人的相似之處，如染指、趾甲、塗唇、描眉、染髮等。

《簡易經》裡記載：「簡之炬只容能存之，易之規只美能化之。容則容物亦可護物，物之附表也。美其表、愚其目、健其本、樂而可為也。」在三皇伏羲時期，大家就知道了美容的基本意義，把容字當做事物的外表，可以保護實質的東西，「美其表」就是美其容的意思。把外表美容一下，可以愚弄蠢笨的眼睛，使對方心中提高對本物的價值觀點。

美容還可以增強其本質的東西，對看家和對本物都有益處。美容首選是「容」，其次是

「美」。「容」包括臉、儀態和修飾三層意思。「美」則表明的是美容的結果和目的是美麗的，或指美容的過程，即美化和改變的意思。因此簡單講美容是一種改變原有的不良行為和疾病（面部），使之成為文明的、高素質的、具有可以被人接受的外觀形象的活動和過程，或為達到目的而使用的產品和方法。

2007年，香港醫院藥劑師學會公布，在香港出錯最多的藥物是胰島素，在1998至2003年間，有228宗出錯個案，包括漏打針、打針後忘記進食等問題；另一種是靜脈注射高濃度氯化鉀，在1998至2003年期間就出現100多宗個案，出錯通常是沒有稀釋藥物便注射，嚴重者可引致死亡。不難看出，二者確實都有不嚴格執行程序的問題存在。現香港美容方面又集中出現各種問題，確有必要嚴格規管。

「程序」指一系列的活動、作業、步驟、決斷、計算和工序，當它們保證依照嚴格規定的順序發生時即產生所述的後果、產品或局

面。一個程序通常引致一個改變。在管理界有句名言：「細節決定成敗」，程序就是整治細節最好的、能夠發揮出協調高效作用的工具。

美、日美容人才要求高

日本是世界上美容最發達的國家，美容人才培養制度也較為完善。日本高中畢業生考入美容學校後，在兩年左右的學習時間內，不僅學習護膚、化妝技巧，還需要學習形象設計、色彩設計、服飾搭配等相關方面的技巧。只有文化考試和實操考試及格者，才能順利畢業。

在美國，美容職業是高端、高收入，而且是高地位的職業，很重要的原因在於社會對相關從業者要求較高。美國的美容行業在某種程度上和大學生畢業以後考大學的法學院異曲同工。美國要求從事美容行業的人才首先必須具備一定的醫學、護理等相關方面的知識。然後再進行1到2年的專業學習，才能考取相關的職業資質。

時人名句

醫學治療應立法

剛成立的私營醫療機構規管檢討督導委員會，將會研究私營醫療機構的規管。希望數月內推出指引，以界定高風險醫療程序及美容服務。注射透明質酸屬醫療行為，注射本身有風險，要先確保注射器具無菌，注射的位置亦要小心。呼籲市民不要隨便做療程，應先了解是否有需要，事前亦應諮詢醫生意見。部分在療程中注射時使用的物質，如果需要在實驗室處理，實驗室的規格及認證等均須納入考慮。

食物及衛生局局長高永文

本會公開呼籲所有醫生，必須遵照專業守則第17.18.20段，不應與非專業的機構及人士在業務上有任何聯繫……本會勸喻市民，不要被偽裝的科學資訊所矚騙。在接受醫療程序前，應先向醫生尋求專業意見，不可隨便簽下同意書。強烈要求政府將向市民提供「醫療美容」及其他醫療服務的機構及人士納入法例規管範圍，亦要立法界定何謂醫療治療。我們亦建議將香港法例第231章《不良廣告（醫藥）條例》的規管範圍擴大至失實、誇大及沒有科學根據之美容廣告。

香港醫學會

醫學美容項目

Table with 2 columns: Category (e.g., 五官美容, 美體美容) and Description (e.g., 臉廓整形、鼻部整形, 胸部整形、吸脂瘦身).

快訊

「科學為民」講座11月開始

為了向市民介紹多個政府部門的科學工作，以及如何應用科技服務廣大市民，政府四十多個部門，在2012年11月至2013年3月期間，將聯合舉辦一個名為「科學為民」服務巡禮的活動，首場講座由香港天文台高級科學主任莫慶炎擔任，講座題目為「天氣與白紋伊蚊」。

日期：11月10日（星期六）
時間：下午2:30-3:30
地點：香港科學館演講廳
查詢：2732 3223
備註：免費活動，即場入座，座位先到先得
網址：http://teenpower.rthk.hk/program/teenger/index_new.htm