

Objectives

- Participate in two, 2-week long clinical rotations at Jishuitan Hospital (JST, 积水潭醫院):
 - Orthopedic Trauma surgery (骨科創傷外科), Huilongguan (回龍觀) branch
 - Neurosurgery and Thoracic surgery (神經和胸外科), Xinjiekou (新街口) branch
- Gain a better grasp on medical Mandarin terms and the Chinese healthcare system:
 - Anatomy, diseases, and surgical operations
 - Patient interview, physical exam, and diagnostic tests
 - Health insurance, seeing the doctor, getting discharged
- Cultural immersion
 - Social outings with the physicians, Peking University medical students, and independently
 - Homestay with an elderly Chinese couple



Orthopedic Trauma surgery (骨科創傷外科)



JST has the best orthopedic trauma surgery department in China. Patients are aware of this and, since they are able to choose the hospital they wish to receive treatment from, they come to JST from near and far.

7/10 (Tues)

- Patient presents to ER (急診) and gets a number
- Orthopedic trauma consult doctor in ER calls her number
- Patient is sent for X-ray
- Patient is admitted to the service for surgery
- Patient's displaced tibia is reset and then placed in a cast

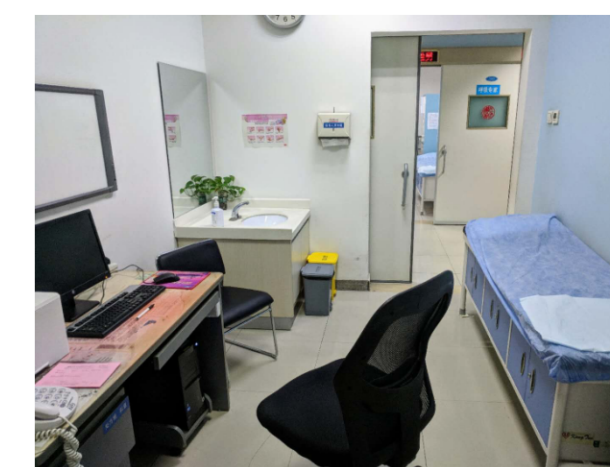


7/12 (Fri)

- An attending and two fellows operated on the patient's fractured distal fibula and tibia, setting it in place with screws and metal plates

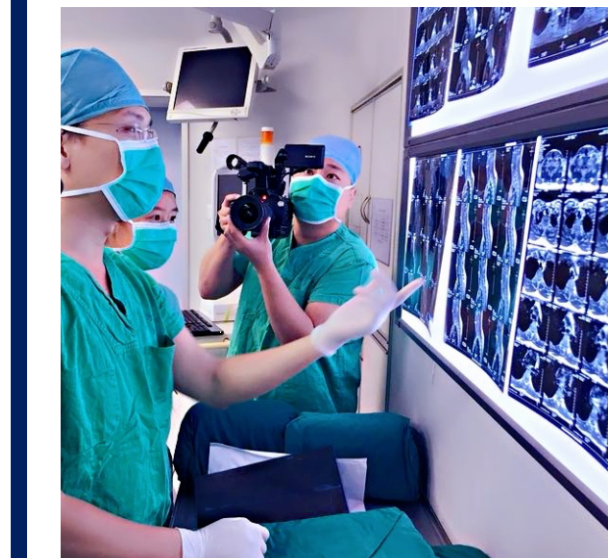
7/19 (Thurs)

- Patient is discharged from the hospital
- The patient will return to outpatient clinic (門診) for follow-up for the next few months to year



Neurosurgery and Thoracic surgery (神經和胸外科)

JST's Xinjiekou branch used to be a palace, and all that remains is a small portion of the garden, which the hospital surrounds. Located in central Beijing, an orthopedic trauma surgeon alone will see approximately 120+ patients every 24hrs in this ER on an average day.

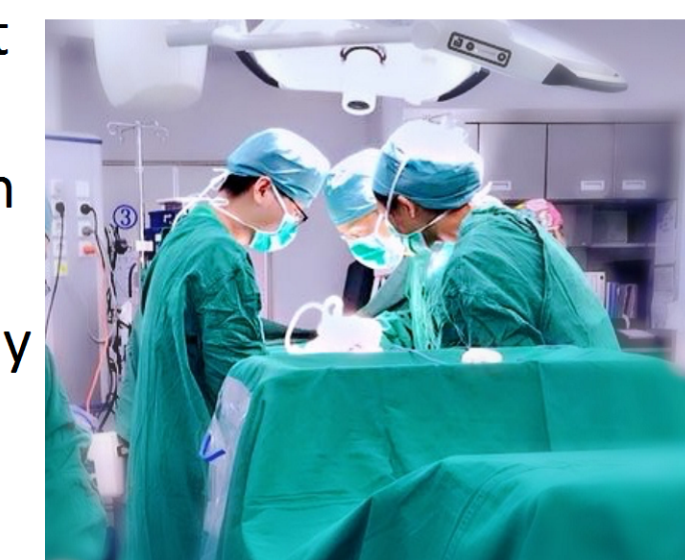


7/20 (Fri)

- Patient presents to hospital with slight numbness in legs
- X-ray and CT scans are ordered
- A lesion is seen between T2-T4
- Patient is admitted to the service for surgery

7/24 (Tues)

- Morning of surgery, the patient can no longer walk
- A laminectomy is performed on T2-T4
- The extradural tumor is partially removed via a microsurgical technique and sent for biopsy given its malignant nature
- Following surgery patient has regained almost all lower limb function



- Patient presents to JST with large, open wound infection following surgical plate placement for fractured ribs due to chest trauma one month earlier

Conclusions

My three main takeaways and points to consider going forward in my medical education:

1. Patient-doctor interaction

With Chinese doctors seeing hundreds of patients each day, and with the American healthcare system quickly shortening the time doctors have with patients, what is most important in this relationship? What *is* vs what *can* be sacrificed when there is little time?

2. Surgical expertise

Given that 2-4 days a week the JST surgeons complete between 3-10 surgeries, they are truly embodying the concept of practice makes perfect. Being limited by a smaller patient population in the US, how can a surgeon-in-training obtain this level of experience early on in his/her career?

3. Being a U.S. Citizen

During my time in Beijing, simply knowing I am American caused individuals both within the hospital and the city to treat me with a greater level of respect than if I were a Chinese citizen. Recognizing that my citizenship confers this status, how will it affect my future global health experiences and how can I adapt to the impacts it will have?



Dr. Li Ting, Dept. of Orthopedic Trauma



Hot Pot dinner with Dr. Su Yonggang, and JST nurses and staff

Acknowledgements

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- Neurosurgery (神經外科): Dr. Jin Bo, Dr. Hanbin Wang, Dr. Richard, Dr. Yuqiang Yao
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