

“I CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF LIFE AGAIN”

It was what Ms. B. K. P., a 33-age patient, living at District 6, HCMC, said after undergoing two successful ear surgeries in 2009 and 2010 at FV Hospital. Only persons who have ever experienced the pain and sadness for hear loss like Ms. P can deeply understand her great happiness now.

A GENETIC DISEASE OBSESSED HER FAMILY

Ms. P told us her story: “Since being a small girl, my hearing was totally good at both two ears. Unluckily, I had hearing difficulties with my ears in 2002. I sometimes had ringing sounds in my ears. After many examinations and consultations, doctors at a big hospital concluded that I was affected with otosclerosis. The only available treatment option was surgery but the doctors there could not ensure the success rate of the surgery. I, at that time, did not have enough courage to go on with the surgery and came back home with my untreated ears”.

Later, her sister also was found with the similar signs and was diagnosed with otosclerosis. By that time, she had known that her otosclerosis was a genetic disease. The disease had developed inherently for a long time but just had broken out recently. Since her works required good listening for effective records, Ms. P had to deal with many difficulties as her hearing became poorer and poorer. She, sometimes, believed that she had to quit job because she could not hear low voice though the speaker was just over one meter far from her.

Until 2007, once being introduced by an acquaintance, she visited the Ear-Nose-Throat Department of FV Hospital and met Dr. Bernard Colin (Phd.). After giving her careful examination, Dr. Bernard informed her that “You are affected by congenital otosclerosis. This leads to sclerosis in stapes and therefore, the sounds cannot be transferred to the eardrum. In order to repair this, I will perform a surgery with endoscopy application to remove the stapes and replace it with an artificial one. After the surgery, you are expected to get back your normal hearing as before”. Ms. P was so happy that she nearly shed to tears when listening to the consultation from her doctor. However, she had just given birth at that time, so se decided to delay her surgery.

In 2009, Ms. P had Dr. Bernard Colin performed surgery to her right ear. Since this was an endoscopy surgery, she was given alocal anaesthetics instead of a general anaesthetics. After replacing her current stapes with an artificial one, he asked “Where do you live?”. His voice was low but Ms. P could hear clearly what he said. She cheered loudly: “Doctor, I hear you! Wow, I can hear again!”. Dr. Bernard smiled. Her ear surgery was finished in success. Until now, she could not forget the moment of great happiness when she could hear the sounds again.

In 2010, she had her left ear undergone surgery. She also took her two sisters, one was affected with otosclerosis and one had eardrum punctured, to Dr. Bernard Colin for asking him for consultation and treatments. “Two surgeries to both my sisters are successful and they can hear again. This great happiness is thank to Dr. Bernard Colin and my family is deeply grateful to him”, Ms. P was moved as continued her story.

SURGERY TREATMENT FOR EAR-RELATED DISEASE WITH THE FRENCH DOCTOR

According to Dr. Bernard Colin (Phd.), the otosclerosis that Ms. P was affected with was caused by the sclerosis of the ossicles in the middle ear, mainly the stapes. Depending on the varied sclerosis conditions, the reach of sounds to the eardrums may be affected correspondingly. The otosclerosis is a genetic disease, commonly met at women, especially during their pregnancy or breast-feeding period.

Otosclerosis develops slowly and its most visible symptoms are poor hearing, ringing sounds in ears. This usually begins in one ear but will eventually affect both ears. Now, the treatment procedure that works best is surgery to replace the stapes. The patients with otosclerosis should undergo surgery the sooner the better since the conditions would become worse if left untreated.

Besides otosclerosis, other ear-related diseases causing risks for deafness, such as, chronic otitis, eardrum puncture, ear bone break, etc. need early treatment upon detection. According to Dr. Bernard Colin (Phd.), patients need to visit doctors if one of their ears has poor hearing in noisy surroundings.

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BOX: Obtaining his medical PhD. degree on Ear-Nose-Throat in 1980, Dr. Bernard Colin has 25 years experiences of working in France and used to work as the Head of Ear-Nose-Throat Department of St. Luc Hospital, Lyon, France for 13 years. As a routine specialist of FV Hospital, Dr. Bernard Colin (Phd.) will directly provide consultations and surgery treatments to patients at Ear-Nose-Throat Department, FV Hospital from **3rd to 14th October 2011**. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bernard Colin (Phd.), please contact with ENT Department, FV Hospital: **(08) 54 11 33 41 or (08) 54 11 33 33, Ext. 7711**.