

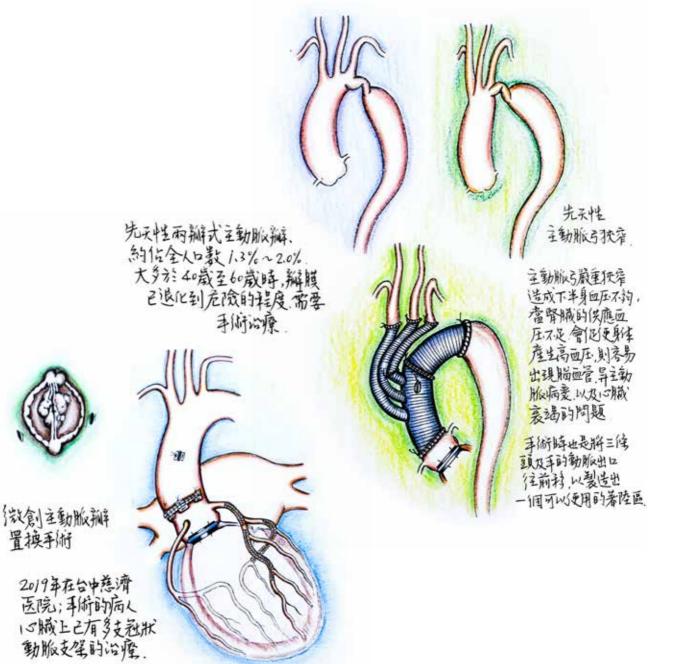
Revealing the Secrets of the Heart

Hand-drawn Illustration of Heart by Dr. Hsieh Shih-Rong

Hsieh Shih-Rong, Director of Cardiovascular Surgery at Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital, has been saving lives with his skilled hands during his 30 years of medical practice. However, all the illustrations he did for every surgery are both medical records and splendid work of art, an achievement unique in the field.

Hsieh Shih-Rong has made several records in the field of cardiac surgery. In addition to being the first surgeon in Taiwan to perform minimally invasive aortic and mitral valve surgery, Hsieh was also the first surgeon in Taiwan to perform an "open-heart surgical aortic valve and mitral valve replacement through a small incision" and an "open-heart surgical replacement of three cardiac valves through a small incision". His surgical hand-drawn illustration is different from the usual surgical sketch, in which he uses the blank region of the medical record to draw in detail the entire surgical procedure, including the appearance of the heart and blood vessels, the suturing method, and the replaced vessels or cardiac valves; he would sometimes add complementary illustrations with pencil to show organ proportions, treatment lesions, and even the thickness and perspective of aneurysm.





Reversed sleeve graft is a clear manifestation of Hsieh's dedication to improve upon current heart surgery to make it simpler and safer for the benefit of patients. Because of the high failure rate of thoracic aortic surgery in the 1990s, he decided to roll the artificial blood vessel like rolling a sleeve, insert it into the aorta and pull it out after suturing. The technique works well in preventing post-suture bleeding and improved patient survival. The procedure was published in the journal "The Annals of Thoracic Surgery" in 2005, and is now widely used by physicians worldwide. All the illustrations in the journal are hand-drawn by Dr. Hsieh and are as exquisite as a textbook.

In the years of medical practice, Hsieh has drawn over a thousand surgical illustrations. No matter how many years have gone by, Hsieh Shih-Rong can perfectly recall the patient's condition after seeing the illustration, because every picture is a story of a patient facing a tug of war of life and death, and he treats every patient with the compassion of a doctor.

About the Illustrator

Hsieh Shih-Rong (in white robe), a native of Tugu. Yunlin. graduated from junior high school and went on to Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School. He later studied medicine at Yang Ming University and is now the director of Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital. He has been training hard in calligraphy when he was small and is now an excellent calligrapher. He was invited to be the art editor for as many as six of his clubs in college. He found it "very simple" and accepted any invitation that came his way. Creative paintings with elegant writings, Hsieh has created numerous beautiful posters, and artistic creation has become his greatest hobby in his medical career. He is both a skilled surgeon and a talented artist who operate on patients and illustrate their surgeries with mindfulness.

