

Raise My Right Hand to Voluntarily Care for the COVID-19 Elderly

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Under the severe COVID-19 epidemic, a case of pneumonia was transferred to the ICU. Because the symptoms continued to worsen, the doctor conducted a Coronavirus test. Two days later, results came out positive. The hospital immediately initiated relevant intervention measures, including all front-line health care workers who had contact with the patient to home-quarantine for 14 days. Next, in order to care the confirmed and suspected cases, a diversion of flow control must be carried out. So during the morning unit meeting, the Chief Nurse was seeking volunteers to care for the confirmed cases. There was silence at that time, so I raised up my right hand and volunteered!

But when I really needed to confront a confirmed case, I began to worry. The news media were flooded with fearful COVID-19 misinformation, I thought to myself, “Oh my God! Why did I raise my hand and say I would look after them?” Soon I was relieved because the medical team worked with each other to find ways to conduct the best treatment safely. The most unforgettable moment was when the patient was in poor condition and family members were unable to visit due to epidemic prevention regulations. So we used tablets to video conference with family members and patients in the unusual time.

From the beginning, I was scared and worried about my family objection for fear of infection spreading to family members. I did not



go home on vacation. Later when my family and friends learned that I was taking care of confirmed cases in the ICU, they expressed their understanding and support. My colleagues also encouraged each other and let us take care such cases till the later stage, recognizing our work and values.

Unfortunately, the patient still succumbed to the disease and died due to severe septic shock and multiple organ failures. We were very sad, but also grateful to him, giving us a chance to do our best. We also learned to face the fear to take care of pneumonia patients and also adapt to mood changes when facing life departures - gaining grounds both professionally and spiritually.