

# Taichung

## Say Good Bye to More Than Twenty Years of Headaches March 1-7, 2012

Chiu-Hsiang Su is close to sixty years old. She has suffered from migraine headaches for over 20 years. When her severe headaches acted up, she would wish she could die. She had tried everything including medical consultation, medication, even exorcism. She always carried the highest dosage of pain killers with her. She would often visit the emergency rooms to receive pain relief injection. One time, she almost lost her life.

Two years ago, Dr. Ying-Chao Lin of the Neurology Department at the Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital, operated on Su's trigeminal neuralgia surgery. The conditions improved immediately. Su's



Ms. Chiu-Hsiang Su Chu shared her gained back health with joy.

husband said, "We have been married for over 30 years. I can see my wife smiling again. Dr. Lin is our family's savior."

### Expert Seamstress, Troubled Constantly by Migraine Headache

Su has a pair of dexterous hands that perform excellent seamstress work. Her husband runs a men's clothing shop. Su is his main employee as well as his indispensable business partner. Her migraine headache may come several times a day, or once in several days. When the headache comes, she describes the sharp pain is like a knife cutting into her head. However, she would just swallow pain medication and continue to finish what she was working on. Her family saw what was happening, and did not want her to suffer like that.

She tried all kinds of irregular remedies no matter how bizarre they seemed. She just hoped they would work. For example, people told her that a goat's head stewed in herbs would cure headaches. After half a year and almost a hundred goat heads later, she was still in pain with no relief. Others told her to drink two bottles of cold medicine at one time and that should cure the pain. Su drank the medicine down without a flinch. "My headaches were so bad I did not even care if I died," she said. But, she still could not find the cure for her problem. She even asked the ghosts



Lots of patients suffering long-time headache from everywhere rushed to Dr. Ying-Chao Lin's clinic for help. Dr. Lin patiently see patients and ask volunteers to provide cookies for patients who wait for too long.

what to do about it. She worshiped her brother who had died at an early age but still found no relief to her headache.

On Taiwan's 921 Earthquake in 1999, the family asked her to retire and take care of herself; but all is to no avail. Su then started seeing western medicine doctors. This also was no use. The Psychology Department asked if she played the lottery and lost money, thus causing stress that could be the source of her mysterious headache. She then wondered whether it might be a problem with the facial nerves. She went to a dentist and insisted to have three of her good teeth pulled. As Su looked back on her numerous medical treatments, she did not know whether to laugh or cry.

## One Doctor Miraculously Cured her Pain, Patients Swarmed the Clinic for Treatment

Two years ago, Su came to the outpatient clinic at Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital. Dr. Ying-Chao Lin examined her to find the cause of the headache. This was the first time Su heard the



Dr. Ying-Chao Lin broke his own records for 14 hours in one clinic. Yet he remained his clinic quality with persistence.

term (trigeminal neuralgia). After initial examination Dr. Lin discovered that some of her blood vessels were pressing on the trigeminal nerves. He operated on her left side, and Su found the pain disappeared a day later. Su then asked Dr. Lin to operate on the nerves on the right side, the spine and other areas. Her physical condition gradually improved. Mr Su, who had been with her through times of excruciating pain that was worse than death, can fully comprehend the pain she experienced. He was so relieved and said, "We have been married more than 30 years. Finally, I get to see my wife smiling like before. I must thank Dr. Lin."

Because Dr. Lin was able to help his patients to regain their healthy bodies, he is very willing to share his teachings and treatment ideas. He was interviewed on the Da Ai TV Program "A Doctor's Dedication". He attended the hospital's activities with the visiting reporters. Consequently, everyone with chronic headache in Taiwan would like to come to see him at his clinic.

On Monday, March 5, after the news broke out about Dr. Lin's ability in curing



chronic headaches, he saw patients from 3:30 pm. until 5 am. the next day! He then went home, showered, and returned to the hospital on March 6<sup>th</sup> for the early morning clinic. This lasted until 1 am. the next morning.

#### Attend to the Sickness, Mobilize Medical and Nursing Staff

For two days straight, Dr. Lin's outpatient hours lasted over 12 hours. The number of patients seen averaged 100. There was no warning and patients just showed up. The sudden surge of large number of patients shocked the hospital staff. Half of them had come for their first visit. They came from Kaoshung, Jilung, Taipei, and even as far as Hualien. Many of them had been suffering from chronic headache with no relief. Dr. Lin was very sympathetic of their conditions, so even though he was severely deprived of sleep, he continued to see his patients one by one.

Dr. Lin's colleagues knew how hard he was working and realized that he still had to see the regular hospital patients, perform surgery, plus being on call. They worried that his health would not be able to withstand the stress. The hospital administration and staff kept supplying him with vitamins, fruit, and snacks. They then discovered Dr. Lin was more worried about his patients than himself and was



Dr. Chung-Yi Lin, Internal Medicine Dept. Director of Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital, brought some snack for Dr. Lin who skipped meals for patients.

concerned that they might be hungry waiting to be seen. He prepared eight cases of crackers and asked the nursing staff to give out to the patients. They were gone in two days!

Having had to deal with what happened on Monday, Li-Jun Lee, the head nurse in the outpatient clinic, immediately decided to make changes in the staffing schedule on Tuesday. She divided the two shifts into three. Three nurses, Ssu-Ying Wu, Pei-Ching Wu and Yi-Ting Tsai, covered Dr. Lin's morning clinic from 8:30 am. through next morning at 1 am. The head nurse and medical volunteers helped to direct the crowd and calm the patients waiting to be seen.

Dr. Lin's clinic that started on March 5th, has averaged more than 90 people a day for two weeks.

This presented great challenges to the strength, energy and wisdom of the medical and nursing staff in helping to solve patients' problems regarding their pain and illness. All deserve a hearty round of applause.