



# Hualien

## Da Vinci Surgical System for Eastern Taiwan, Minimally Invasive Heart Surgery

Mr. He is 61-year-old but his physical condition worsens during a mourning period in August 2014. He often felt weak and short of breath. He even had to take breaks while climbing stairs. Mr. He was concerned that it was the side effect of the medicine he took for Cellulitis. He hurried back to Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital to seek treatment.

Although the cellulitis condition was stable, he had serious chest tightness and breathing difficulty, as well

as swollen feet. Dr. Chen Chih-Pin, a dermatologist, worried that it could be heart or kidney problem. He consulted with the nephrologist and cardiac thoracic surgeons, and determined that his heart's mitral valve chordate was broken. This led to blood reflux and could cause heart failure, therefore Mr. He needed urgent surgery.

### Heart Surgery from Stay Traditional to Be Minimally Invasive

On November 28, 2014, cardiac thoracic surgeon, Dr. Chang Jui-Chih, used minimal invasive operation for a valve replacement surgery. The operation lasted eight hours and the wound was no more



Cardiac Thoracic Surgeon Dr. Chang Jui-Chih carefully examines Mr. He who is back for post surgery checkup.



than six centimeters.

Two weeks after the operation, Mr. He not only is able to walk normally, he is comfortable in climbing stairs and biking. He is thankful to the medical team for the noninvasive surgery. He told everyone he met that the Cardiac Surgery team of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital is the best. He often shares his experience after the incident, and even became a teaching patient for medical interns while hospitalized. Mr. He said with a smile, "Even my neighbor could not believe that I just had a major heart surgery."

"The first 500 cases took us 12 years," the director of Cardiac Thoracic

Surgery, Chao Sheng-Feng shared. The Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital conducted its first heart surgery in 1989. As more and more physicians joined, the cardiac team becomes stronger. In 2010, the hospital had reached its 1,500th heart surgery. Under the team's hard work, there are over 2,000 cases of successful heart surgery today. Since September 2014, the development of cardiac surgery is moving toward minimal invasive operation; and the Da Vinci machine was officially introduced in the Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital, further refining the operation and bringing a better quality of life to patients after surgeries.