



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 6, 1994

Chinese University Medical Symposium Promotes New Cataract Surgery Techniques

New techniques on cataract surgery were demonstrated today (June 6) to more than 150 leading eye specialists from 20 countries at The Third Far East Cataract Surgery Symposium, hosted by the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences of the Chinese University of Hong Kong from June 4 to 7 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The objective of the Symposium is to promote amongst international experts the latest surgical techniques to treat cataract, and to exchange ideas on cataract surgeries in Asia.

The surgery -- with the new techniques of phacoemulsification and scleral fixation of intraocular lens (IOL) -- marks a new era of cataract surgery in Hong Kong. Whereas more conventional surgery removes the nucleus of the cataract, the new method of phacoemulsification uses the ultrasonic machine to melt the nucleus of the patients' lens and implant the IOL. By scleral fixation, the IOL are sewn directly to the sclera, making implantation possible when the capsule of the lens cannot support the IOL.

More than 10,000 cataract operations were performed in Hong Kong last year. Cataract is also the major cause of blindness in the territory.

A live eye surgery demonstrating the new techniques was performed today at the Prince of Wales Hospital by a team led by internationally renowned ophthalmologist Professor Mark Tso On-man, Chairman and Professor of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The operation was televised live to the Convention Centre where the Symposium was held. It was followed by a hands-on wet lab session for participants.

According to the team performing the surgery, "Phacoemulsification brings many benefits, such as smaller wound construction, shorter operating time, faster recovery and less post-operative astigmatism. Operation under topical anaesthesia is also possible."

By scleral fixation, implantation of intraocular lens could be possible in difficult situations and as a secondary procedure.

The surgery was introduced to Hong Kong a few years ago. The Symposium aims to popularise its application among ophthalmologists in Hong Kong and elsewhere in Asia.

The Symposium is also the first medical conference in Hong Kong where an operation is televised live via microwave for interactive conferencing between the performing surgeons and symposium participants. The Symposium is sponsored by the Kabi Pharmacia.

Prof Mark Tso is an internationally renowned Chinese-American ophthalmologist. Best known for his contributions to the treatment of retinal vascular diseases, ophthalmic pathology and oncology, Prof Tso has assumed key teaching, research and clinical services positions at leading medical centres in the United States. He was Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Illinois for 18 years before joining the Chinese University.

The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences of the Chinese University of Hong Kong was established in March 1994. Under the chairmanship of Prof Tso, the Department coordinates teaching and research at both the Chinese University and the University of Hong Kong. The Hospital Authority also makes available to the Department facilities of the Hong Kong Eye Hospital for teaching and clinical services.

"Our mission is to encourage the application of proven high technology to rescue patients from the verge of blindness, and to promote the level of eye care in Hong Kong to the highest standards possible," said Prof Tso.

Attachment: A set of 5 photos on cataract surgery
Fact sheet on cataract surgery

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For press enquiries, please contact Miss Kathy Hui of the CUHK's Information and Public Relations Office at tel 609 8894.