

MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (Chapter 161)

ORDER MADE BY THE INQUIRY PANEL OF  
THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

DR WONG SHU TING LILY (REGISTRATION NO.: M12501)

It is hereby notified that after due inquiry held on 26 July 2022 in accordance with section 21 of the Medical Registration Ordinance, Chapter 161 of the Laws of Hong Kong, the Inquiry Panel of the Medical Council of Hong Kong found Dr WONG Shu Ting Lily (Registration No.: M12501) guilty of the following disciplinary charges:—

‘That in or about December 2015, she, being a registered medical practitioner, disregarded her professional responsibility to her patient (‘the Patient’), in that she:—

- (a) failed to conduct proper examination and/or note down assessment of visual acuity and visual field in response to her complaint of vision impairment after trauma to eye in recreation games; and/or
- (b) failed to refer the Patient to a specialist in Ophthalmology for further consultation and treatment when the circumstances so warranted.

In relation to the facts alleged, either singularly or cumulatively, she has been guilty of misconduct in a professional respect.’

Briefly stated, the Secretary of the Medical Council (the ‘Council’) received an email from the Patient on 14 March 2018 accusing Dr WONG of medical negligence in failing to diagnose and treat her right eye injury properly.

According to the Patient, she injured her right eye when ‘*[she] was hit with high impact by a flat ‘arrow’ during recreational games*’. Immediately after the accident, she consulted Dr WONG on 11 December 2015 and told the latter that she ‘*couldn’t see immediately after the injury and after 2 hours [she] only have limited and very blurry vision and was having a very bad headache*’.

It was the unchallenged evidence of the Patient that during the consultation:—

*‘[Dr WONG] put some sort of bright yellow drops into my eyes, then looked at my eyes with bright light and said I just had a scratch in my cornea. She told me I would just feel a rough for the next few days—and if my vision is still blurry in 2 days I can come back to see her. So she prescribed me with antibiotic ointment and Voltar[e]n tablets and sent me home. Her diagnosis of me at the time was ‘conjunctivitis’.*

According to the Patient, since her right eye injury did not get better after 2 days, she began to worry and decided to consult a specialist in Ophthalmology.

According to a medical report dated 15 October 2020 prepared by one Dr LAM, a specialist in Ophthalmology:-

*‘The ... [P]atient was seen in [their] clinic on 16 Dec 2015. She complained of decreased vision of the right eye after blunt trauma. Her best corrected visual acuities were 0.5 (-5.25/-2.75X3) and 1.2 (-2.00/-1.50X5) for the right and left eyes respectively. Ocular examination showed right relative afferent pupil[1]ary defect (RAPD), some wrinkling of retina, retinal hemorrhage with raised sub-macular hem[a]toma, swollen optic disc with retinal edema, and choroidal rupture. Optical coherent tomography (OCT) and fundus photo tests were performed to further investigate her vitreous + retina status...*

*She received uneventful right pneumatic retinopexy + intravitreal injection of Avastin + nerve growth factor injection on 18 Dec 2015... She had made good visual recovery with best corrected vision of 1.2 (-1.75/2.75X180) in the right eye (on 23 Dec 2015, her last visit)...*

Dr WONG admitted the factual particulars of the disciplinary charges against her. It remained for the Inquiry Panel to consider all the evidence and determine whether Dr WONG had been guilty of misconduct in a professional respect.

The Inquiry Panel agreed with the Secretary’s expert witness, Dr IP, a specialist in Family Medicine, that:—

*'A consultation consists of history taking, formulation of diagnostic hypotheses, physical examination, putting forward a problem list and a treatment plan. Medication is prescribed according to the treatment plan.*

*For patient presenting with eye injury, history should include mechanism of injury, ocular symptoms, such as decrease of vision, foreign body sensation, visual field defect, floaters, diplopia and pain on eye movements. It is also important to ask the patient's past ocular history and past medical history.*

*If a patient presented with any ocular symptoms, it is important to note the visual acuity, eye movements, visual field assessment and pupillary reaction to light...*

*The Patient had an eye injury and blurring of vision immediately afterward. As a doctor attending any patient with blurring of vision, it is essential to note down the visual acuity...*

In failing to conduct proper examination and/or note down assessment of visual acuity and visual field in response to the Patient's complaint of vision impairment after trauma to her right eye in recreational games, Dr WONG had in the Inquiry Panel's view by her conduct fallen below the standards expected of registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. Accordingly, the Inquiry Panel found Dr WONG guilty of professional misconduct as per disciplinary charge (a).

The Inquiry Panel also agreed with the Secretary's expert witness, Dr IP, that:—

*'Most primary care doctors do not have equipment for a thorough eye examination. If there is any eye injury, it is advisable to have an early referral to a specialist in ophthalmology. One of the Don'ts in assessing an eye injury patient is 'Do not delay referral'.*

*...Any disturbance of vision is an indication for an early referral...'*

In failing to refer the Patient to a specialist in Ophthalmology for further consultation and treatment when the circumstances so warranted, Dr WONG had in the Inquiry Panel's view by her conduct fallen below the standards expected of registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. Accordingly, the Inquiry Panel also found Dr WONG guilty of professional misconduct as per disciplinary charge (b).

Dr WONG has a clear disciplinary record.

Taking into consideration the nature and gravity of the disciplinary charges for which the Inquiry Panel found Dr WONG guilty and what the Inquiry Panel has read and heard in mitigation, the Inquiry Panel made a global order in respect of disciplinary charges (a) and (b) that Dr WONG's name be removed from the General Register for a period of 2 months and the operation of the removal order be suspended for a period of 12 months.

The orders are published in the *Gazette* in accordance with section 21(5) of the Medical Registration Ordinance. The full decision of the Inquiry Panel is published in the official website of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (<http://www.mchk.org.hk>).

LAU Wan-ye, Joseph Chairman, *The Medical Council of Hong Kong*