



養和醫療
HKSH MEDICAL GROUP

For Immediate Release

Mr. Li Ka Shing Sponsors Paediatric Cancer Patients to Receive Proton Therapy at HKSH

(4 October 2023, Hong Kong) HKSH Medical Group (HKSH) today announced that it has received a generous donation of HK\$ 1 million from Mr. Li Ka Shing to sponsor two paediatric cancer patients referred by the Hong Kong Children's Hospital of the Hospital Authority to receive proton therapy at HKSH.

The two adolescent boys (aged 15 and 13) were referred with malignant soft tissue sarcoma (Ewing family tumor) and Hodgkin lymphoma respectively. Both patients are currently under the care of Dr KAM Koon-ming, Honorary Consultant in Clinical Oncology of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital.

The first patient has soft tissue sarcoma near the orbital wall in the right maxillary sinus. Proton therapy is chosen over conventional photon therapy as it helps minimise side effects, such as oral pain, dryness, and the risk of hearing and vision impairments. It also reduces the likelihood of developing radiation-induced secondary cancers in the future.

The second patient required further treatment for a relapse of Hodgkin's lymphoma. The lymphomas are located in the neck and mediastinum, which encompasses the thoracic cavity and vital organs such as the heart, peripheral vascular system, esophagus, trachea, phrenic nerve, cardiac nerve, thoracic duct, thymus, and thoracic lymph nodes. Proton therapy is particularly beneficial in this case as it helps minimise the risk of radiation-induced heart disease and secondary malignancies, such as breast, lung, or thyroid cancer.

Proton therapy is the most advanced radiation therapy technology available. It utilises a high-energy, high-precision proton beam to target cancer cells to destroy the tumor, and its high precision helps to minimise damage to surrounding healthy tissues, making it particularly suitable for developing children with cancer.

Dr LAW Chun-key, Co-director of HKSH Proton Therapy Centre and Honorary Consultant in Clinical Oncology of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital explains the benefits of proton therapy, “By precisely calculating and controlling the depth and intensity of proton beams, our goal is to target the tumor and deliver a concentrated burst of energy to it. Unlike other forms of radiation therapy, protons stop at the tumor site, minimising radiation exposure to surrounding healthy tissues and reducing the risk of side effects. This is particularly significant for children, who generally have a longer survival period after treatment and are more susceptible to the side effects of radiation during their developmental stage. The use of high-precision proton therapy can help minimise the risk of radiation-induced chronic health issues, as well as the development of secondary cancers or other complications in the future.”

Mr Wyman LI, Chief Operating Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Director of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital said, “Gratitude is extended to Mr. Li Ka Shing for his generous donation, which has significantly eased the financial hardship faced by the families of paediatric cancer patients and

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enabled the two children who are in urgent need to receive state-of-the-art treatment with proven effectiveness. Proton therapy, a technology that has been developed over several decades, is now available in over a hundred proton therapy centers worldwide. However, until recently, Hong Kong did not have access to this technology, and patients requiring proton therapy had to travel abroad for their treatment. With the establishment of the new Proton Therapy Centre (the Centre), HKSH aims to offer advanced treatment options to local cancer patients.”

“Proton therapy emerges as a superior choice for pediatric patients. Despite the added complexity and time required for treatment planning in pediatric cancer cases compared to adults, our unwavering commitment lies in healing children, considering their longer life expectancy and the long-term advantages brought about by proton treatment. HKSH is dedicated to collaborating with authorities and generous donors within our community to advance this mission,” added Mr Li.

After more than a decade of meticulous planning and construction, the HKSH Proton Therapy Centre has been successfully completed in the midst of this year, establishing itself as the first and only proton therapy facility in Hong Kong. The Centre boasts a comprehensive proton therapy system, featuring two 190-degree half-rotating PT gantries, four magnet-ring accelerators with a diameter of approximately four metres, and an advanced beam transport system. Moreover, the Centre houses an MR-Simulator room and a mobile Cone Beam CT for precise imaging during treatment, along with two proton therapy rooms furnished with pencil-beam delivery nozzles at the end of the beam delivery system. To further enhance patient care, the Centre is equipped with a state-of-the-art robotic patient positioning system and an integrated Orthogonal X-ray system. In July of this year, the Centre commenced its initial operations, aiming to elevate medical care in Hong Kong by offering patients a broader range of treatment options through cutting-edge technology.

Mr LI Ka Shing has consistently supported the enhancement of medical service. From 2018 to 2020, he donated HK\$20 million to the “Transcatheter Cardiovascular Interventions Subsidy Scheme”, assisting patients in need to receive surgeries such as Coronary Stenting Procedure and Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) at HKSH. During the fifth wave of COVID-19 pandemic in February 2022, he promptly donated HK\$70 million subsidising seven private hospitals in Hong Kong including Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, benefiting more than 800 patients referred by the Hospital Authority. In June 2022, Mr. Li donated HK\$860,000 to subsidise radioactive iodine treatments at HKSH for cancer patients from Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital during the pandemic peak.

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About HKSH Medical Group

Officially launched in September 2017, HKSH Medical Group promotes public health and advanced medicine through a multi-faceted, coordinated approach across clinical services, medical education, scientific research and public health education. Members of the Group, including Hong Kong Sanatorium

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& Hospital, HKSH Healthcare and HKSH Eastern Medical Centre, are dedicated to offering top-quality holistic care to patients, upholding the motto 'Quality in Service, Excellence in Care.'

Established in 1922, Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital is one of the key members of HKSH Medical Group and a leading private hospital in Hong Kong. Living up to its motto of 'Quality in Service, Excellence in Care', the Hospital is committed to serving the public as well as promoting medical education and research.

For more information, please find www.hksh.com.

Photo Caption:

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