



Yi's story

I wish I knew more ways to say "Thank you" because I was given a second chance at life.

I was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis because of hepatitis B and told I would need a liver transplant. I still remember that it was so surreal to me when the doctor informed me. I couldn't believe it. I thought "I'm in good shape and it can't really be that bad". In fact, I was placed on the waiting list in early 2006.

Except for regular appointments with the Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) doctors, I returned home to wait and tried to ignore the emotional anxiety and remind myself that everything would be all right. After two and half years of waiting, I received a phone call with the news that organs were available for my transplant in mid 2008. Unfortunately, I got a severe infection after surgery, which caused my bile duct and main liver artery to be blocked. The doctors tried many ways to save my new liver but they told me that I would need another new liver.

Throughout the arduous wait, late in 2012, a doctor called to let me know a liver was on the way and my life changed for a third time. I thought I had prepared myself as best as I could for the moment. Anxiety filled my insides. The kind of anxiety one experiences before, except a million times amplified. I was wheeled to theatre and people were everywhere in the operating room. Nurses, anaesthesiologists,

assistants, doctors. A nurse placed a blanket over my legs while a clear plastic mask covered my nose and mouth. The anaesthesiologist told me to relax, to let sleep come. My mind was blank.

After eight hours my transplant surgery was successful and I spent ten days in the hospital recovering from the procedure. This time I am doing well, which brings me closer to my goal of returning to a normal life.

To the donor families and the donors who gave me another chance to live: thank you. To every doctor, nurse, medical technician, transplant coordinator and all those that keep a hospital operational everyday: thank you. Finally, to my family and friends who have stood by my side throughout the years: thank you.



Yi Li with his wife Jing Xiao.



Australian Government
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www.donatelife.gov.au