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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR DR CHEE YEW WEN

1. The Disciplinary Committee ("DC") of the Singapore Medical Council ("SMC") held a disciplinary inquiry (the "Inquiry") for Dr Chee Yew Wen ("Dr Chee"), age 40 years, a registered medical practitioner practising as a General Practitioner at Wen & Weng Medical Group Pte Ltd located at 1 HarbourFront Walk, #02-226 VivoCity, Singapore 098585, and at the Medical & Rejuvenation Centre located at China Square Central, #02-33, Singapore 048423. The inquiry was held in 2010 and 2011. The proceedings arose out of a complaint to the SMC dated 26 March 2009 by one of Dr Chee's patients ("the Patient").
2. Dr Chee faced 2 charges of professional misconduct under the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 174) ("MRA"), in respect of his treatment of the Patient. Dr Chee contested both charges.
3. The first charge alleged that Dr Chee carried out laser lipolysis, also known as "SmartLipo", on the Patient to remove nasal tip fat pad from the Patient for the purpose of reducing the size of the Patient's nasal tip, when this was not an appropriate treatment ("Inappropriate Treatment Charge").
4. The machine used by Dr Chee for the SmartLipo was a Nd:YAG Laser System. The machine operates by using a laser contained in a cannula to melt fat, then allowing the fat to drain out or be re-absorbed by a patient's body.
5. The second charge alleged that Dr Chee had grossly mismanaged the post-procedure treatment of the Patient by not immediately referring the Patient to a specialist. Instead, Dr Chee had prescribed the Patient a course of stem cell treatment ("Inappropriate Post-Operative Treatment Charge").

6. At the start of the Inquiry, Dr Chee raised a preliminary point in respect of the Inappropriate Post-Operative Treatment Charge. Dr Chee, through his lawyers, argued that the facts relating to this charge did not form part of the complaint and that he was not given any notice of this allegation prior to receipt of the Inappropriate Post-Operative Treatment Charge. The DC agreed with Dr Chee and dismissed the charge on the preliminary point.
7. In respect of the Inappropriate Treatment Charge, the DC heard full evidence and witnesses. At the end of the inquiry, the DC found Dr Chee guilty of professional misconduct.
8. Dr Chee administered the SmartLipo procedure on the Patient on two occasions for the purposes of reducing the size of the Patient's nasal tip. The Patient suffered a severe burn to the nasal tip, resulting in a scar on the tip of the Patient's nose and a loss of nasal tip profile.
9. The DC found that the use of SmartLipo on the nasal tip for the purpose of sharpening the nasal tip is an inappropriate procedure. Smartlipo as a tool to refine the nasal tip is not a proven method and there is no medical literature that supports this use of Smartlipo. The DC acknowledged the views of expert witnesses, that the appropriate and indicated treatment for defatting the nasal tip fat pad should be Rhinoplasty.
10. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the DC ordered that Dr Chee:
 - a. be suspended from practice for a period of 6 months;
 - b. be censured;
 - c. provide a written undertaking to the SMC that he would not engage in the conduct complained of or similar conduct; and
 - d. pay the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceedings.
11. The DC also ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.
12. Dr Chee's 6-month suspension took effect on 29 July 2011.

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