Meet the Professor

Dr. Jean Yves Petit: improvement of surgical conservative treatment with fat grafting: cancer safety

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October 19, 2017, the 9th Shanghai Breast Reconstruction Symposium successfully ended with wide-range scientific content and different categories. The Symposium aimed at providing a nationwide academic platform for breast cancer experts to have further communication and brainstorming.

During the meeting, we were honored to have an interview with Dr. Jean Yves Petit, Cancer and Plastic Surgeon at the European Institute of Oncology Milan-Italy (Figure 1). Dr. Petit has dedicated his career to oncoplastic reconstructive surgery. As an invited speaker at the symposium, he gave an excellent presentation on the topic “Improvement of surgical conservative treatment with fat grafting: cancer safety”.

During the interview, Dr. Petit mentioned the cancer safety about surgical conservative treatment with fat grafting is a long topic, no final answer to this yet. Results obtained from the animal models in experimental laboratory show that fat tissue is releasing some proteins which can stimulate the cancer cells to grow. On the mice experiment when injecting fat tissue together with tumor cells, especially the progenitor cells of the fat issue, it is stimulating the development of the tumor of the mice. However, he has five different studies which are not showing an increasing risk of local regional recurrence after injection of fat tissue.

Dr. Petit mentioned the best way to solve the problem is to do a randomized trial with fat tissue, the problem is that it’s very difficult to propose a randomization to patient for plastic surgery because the decision of plastic surgery is always taken by the patient herself and usually she doesn’t accept to be randomized. His team are in the process of starting a randomized trial in china with the immediate injection of fat issue at the time of the conservative surgery, hopefully to shed light on the dispute.

When it comes to suggestions to young breast surgeons, Dr. Petit said plastic surgeons should cover a very large scope of the information and knowledge. If they wanted to be specialized in the plastic surgery, they have to be expert about cancer treatment like chemotherapy immunotherapy and to be very much aware of the psychology of the patient, what is the risk of complication. Discussion with the patient will be very important.

Regarding the future trends of Breast Surgery, Dr. Petit said was it would be possible to avoid surgery and to destroy the tumor without opening the body. There will be some trends but for the moment the surgery is still required.

Let’s enjoy the interview video (Figure 2).

Interview questions

(I) Tomorrow your speech is about autologous tissue breast reconstruction, would you please give us a brief introduction about autologous tissue breast reconstruction?

(II) What encourage you to become a Breast Surgeon?

(III) Would you like to talk about the cancer safety about surgical conservative treatment with fat grafting?

(IV) Looking through the topics this year in Shanghai Breast Reconstruction Symposium, which one impresses you most and why?
As an outstanding breast surgeon, what would be your suggestions you would like to share with young surgeons?

In your opinion, what are the future trends of Breast Surgery?

**Expert’s introduction**

Dr. Jean Yves Petit is a plastic surgeon, specialized in Breast and other districts reconstruction after demolition interventions. He is author of more than 150 publications, the most important of which are dedicated to the study of nipple sparing mastectomy.

He is the director of the Plastic Department at the European Institute of Oncology in Milan and former director of the Plastic Surgery Department of the Cancer Institute Villejuif-France.

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**Footnote**

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**References**