

PUBLIC SUMMARY

DR. Y. PETER KONG (CPSO# 51910)

1. Disposition

On June 19, 2015, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) ordered urologist Dr. Kong to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to professional communications with patients.

2. Introduction

Patient A complained to the College that Dr. Kong had failed to investigate and treat symptoms of kidney stones and complained that Dr. Kong’s attitude was difficult, confrontational, and unprofessional. Dr. Kong informed Patient A that he could not perform “magic” and she should go to the hospital to treat her pain.

Dr. Kong describes his interaction with Patient A in a different light, explaining the reasons for his approach, and apologizing for the distress he may have caused.

3. Committee Process

A Surgical Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the complaint as well as College policies and relevant legislation.

4. Committee’s Analysis

The Committee felt that Dr. Kong’s management of Patient A’s kidney stones was acceptable, but noted that his communications with the patient interfered in his care. In the present matter, the Committee had before it only Patient A’s version of events and Dr. Kong’s recollections of his encounters with the patient. Dr. Kong did acknowledge making some of the remarks that Patient A recalled including that he could not perform “magic” and that she needed to go to the hospital to treat her pain. Dr. Kong’s explanation of the intention behind his remarks was different than Patient A’s interpretation.

Nevertheless, Dr. Kong's significant history of similar communications complaints concerned the Committee, especially considering that the College had received Patient A's complaint while Dr. Kong was still involved in ongoing Committee directed remediation for shortcomings in his communications with patients. The Committee determined that a caution in person, which would appear on the public register, was the appropriate manner in which to demonstrate its ongoing concern about Dr. Kong's problems with communications.