

National News

First Rescue Baby in Asia Born in NTUH

Last month National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH) successfully helped a couple, who are both carriers of thalassemia genes, deliver their second baby. This baby girl is seen as Asia's first "rescue baby" since she was born for a particular purpose—to save her brother, who has suffered from Mediterranean anemia since birth. (1)

Dr. Su, a **geneticist** at NTUH, said that this couple had their first baby two years ago. (2) Their **desperation** led them to consider having a “rescue baby.” However, the decision was easy since they had planned to have more than one child and a second child who was free of the disease might be able to save their son’s life.

 (3) After a couple of attempts, a suitable embryo was created with **antigens compatible** with the suffering boy.

(4) For example, how might a rescue baby think if it learned that its entire existence **were predicated upon** saving the life of a **sibling**? (5)

Doctors expect to perform the transplant operation in the near future. Controversy aside, it is hoped that the surgery will be a success and the boy will be able to lead a normal healthy life.

◆ Discourse Structure

- (A) They had been looking for suitable **bone marrow** or **umbilical cord** blood **transplant donors** for their son **in vain**.
- (B) Others, however, believe that the moral **implication notwithstanding**, it is a **revolutionary** technology that could end suffering and save lives.
- (C) Some **critics** claim that it is **unethical** to use a baby as a means of saving a person's life due to the **moral** questions raised.
- (D) However, it seems while that the **cutting-edge** medical technology the doctors applied has brought hope to this couple, it has also caused some **controversy**.
- (E) Using **embryonic** pre-selection, the doctors were able to ensure that the embryo was healthy.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} (1) & (2) & (3) & (4) & (5) \end{array}$$



Before You Read

►地中海型貧血（thalassemia 或稱為 Mediterranean anemia），為世界上常見的遺傳性血液疾病。這項疾病在地中海國家、中東及亞洲（包括香港）尤為常見。若夫妻都為帶有地中海型貧血隱性基因的話，生出患有此種疾病的機率為四分之一。臺大醫院這項救人寶寶的產生，從胚胎篩檢到生產，需要許多部門的醫師聯合執行，像是基因醫學科（Department of Medical Genetics）、婦產科（OB/GYN：Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology）以及小兒科（Department of Pediatrics）等，以確保這對夫妻可以生出健康且能拯救哥哥的寶寶。

◆ Vocabulary and Idioms

1. cutting-edge [ˌkʌtɪŋˈedʒ] *adj.* 尖端的
2. controversy [ˈkɑntrəˌvɜːsi] *n.* 爭論；論戰
3. geneticist [dʒəˈnetɪsɪst] *n.* 遺傳學家；基因醫學科醫師
4. bone marrow [ˈbɒnˌmæroʊ] *n.* 骨髓
5. umbilical cord [ʌmˈbɪlɪkəl kɔːrd] *n.* 臍帶
6. transplant [trænsˈplænt] *n.* 移植
7. donor [ˈdɒnə] *n.* 捐贈者
8. in vain *adv. phr.* 徒然
9. desperation [ˌdɛspəˈrefən] *n.* 不顧一切；拼命
10. embryonic [ˌembriˈɒnɪk] *adj.* 胚胎的
11. antigen [ˈæntədʒən] *n.* 抗原
12. compatible [kəmˈpætəbəl] *adj.* 相容的；符合的
13. critic [ˈkrɪtɪk] *n.* 批評者
14. unethical [ˌʌnˈeθɪkəl] *adj.* 違反道德的；沒有道德的
15. moral [ˈmɔːrəl] *adj.* 道德的
16. be predicated (up)on sth. *v. phr.* 以某事物為依據
17. sibling [ˈsɪblɪŋ] *n.* 兄弟姊妹
18. implication [ˌɪmplɪˈkeɪʃən] *n.* 含意；暗示
19. notwithstanding [ˌnɒtwɪðˈstændɪŋ] *adv.* 儘管如此
20. revolutionary [ˌrɛvəˈluʃənˌeɪ] *adj.* 革命性的

◆ Patterns

Others, however, believe that the moral implication notwithstanding, it is a revolutionary technology that could end suffering and save lives.

句中的 notwithstanding (儘管如此；仍然；然而) 和 in spite of this、however 及 nevertheless 意思相同，為文學上的用語，較為正式。

⇒ The political situation between China and Taiwan notwithstanding, the two have strong economic ties.
(儘管中國與臺灣之間的政治關係如此，這兩個地方仍有很堅固的經濟關係。)

◆ Translation

亞洲第一位救人寶寶在臺大醫院誕生

上個月臺大醫院成功地幫助一對帶有地中海型貧血基因的夫妻，生下他們的第二個寶寶。這個女寶寶被視為亞洲第一位「救人寶寶」，因為她是為了某個特別的目的而出生的：拯救她從出生就患有重度地中海型貧血的哥哥。然而，似乎這一項醫師們所應用的尖端醫學科技在帶給這對夫妻希望的同時，也造成了爭論。

臺大基因醫學科的蘇醫師表示，這對夫婦兩年前生下了他們第一個寶寶。他們一直都在為兒子找尋合適的脊髓或臍帶血移植捐贈者，但徒勞無功。絕望使得他們考慮生一個「救人寶寶」。然而這項決定很容易，因為他們本來就計畫生不只一個孩子，而且第二個沒有這項疾病的寶寶還可以救哥哥一命。

醫師們利用胚胎篩檢，使他們可以確保這個胚胎是健康的。在幾次嘗試後，終於產生了一個帶有符合這位患病男孩抗原的胚胎。

有些批評者宣稱，利用一個寶寶當作拯救人命的工具是不道德的，因為會引發一些道德倫理的問題。比方說，當這個寶寶得知他（她）的存在是為了要拯救他（她）的兄弟姐妹，他（她）的感受為何？然而，有些人則認為若將道德意涵暫且擺在一邊，這是一個可以結束痛苦和拯救性命的革命性科技。

醫生們希望能在近期內進行移植手術。撇開爭論不提，大家都希望手術很成功，而且這位男孩也可以過正常健康的生活。

◆ Answer

(1) D (2) A (3) E (4) C (5) B

