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父親節願望「囝囝身體健康」

廿四孝爸愛滋子 相依10年未言棄

一張面具,是華麗裝飾,還是不能卸下的具 數字掛上眾多手繪面具 的玻璃背後,是每個受 母體感染的愛滋病童與家 人的抗病故事。有病至與 父親相依10多年,在父親 節來臨前,這名單親父親 最大心願就是孩子能身體 健康。

「老實講,我哋都好封閉自己。」陳先生(化名)的兒子明仔(化名),出生時已是受母體感染的愛滋病患者。在別人眼中,明仔只是需要每天吃藥,性格內向的男生,他患病的真相甚少對外揭開。

陳先生坦言,向學校隱瞞只因怕兒子因 此沒書讀:早年曾有親戚知道明仔的病情, 用棉被蓋着自己,怕被他感染,陳說:「我

無礙社交 籲勿反應過敏

據衞生署資料,愛滋病學名「後天免疫力缺乏症」,可令人體逐漸喪失免疫力,無法抵抗各種感染和癌症。按愛滋寧養服務協會資料,一般社交接觸並不會傳播病毒,包括唾液、鼻水、眼液等,握手、上課、工作或公用泳池,也不會受感染;病毒主要傳播途徑是性接觸、血液接觸及母嬰傳播。陳先生呼籲大眾不要反應過敏,給予病者多些空間。

地以後唔會 去人哋屋企,亦 唔會請親戚去我哋 屋企。」

明仔的媽媽在他 一歲多時因愛滋病離 世。陳先生憶述,緬甸 籍的太太在懷孕前於泰國動 腿部手術,輸血時不幸染上愛 滋病毒,但他倆不知情。到誕下 明仔一年多,陳太健康突轉差而回鄉 就醫才發現染病,且不久便病逝。

妻手術感染 誕子不久離世

父子在港做身體檢查,只有明仔染病。 據衞生署資料,懷孕婦女若帶有愛滋病病 毒,嬰兒受傳染機會約為15%至40%。陳先 生慨嘆,「命運要咁安排,也不能埋怨。」

眼見明仔自幼要定期到醫院覆診及服藥,陳先生十分難過,一直沒放棄照顧兒子。唯一的一次例外,是明仔入院初期,一名愛滋寧養服務協會的捐助者認為與明仔有緣,提出將他的撫養權交給她。陳想到自己要長時間在內地工作,但明仔要在港留院數月,他答應了。但最終因該女士的家人反對而沒成事。

攜廿樽藥水過關 常遭留難

當時陳先生在內地從事傢俬製造,坐飛機回港要數小時,坐火車則逾20小時。他與明仔每年回港覆診四次,早年每次帶着廿多



樽藥水過關,不時被內地關員當水貨客,甚 至將三分二藥物扣起。

向入境處職員出示醫生證明是否能解決 「扣藥」問題?愛滋寧養服務協會行政總監 陳麗卿解釋,那些年內地政府拒絕愛滋病患 者入境,故不能向他們出示藥物用途。

陳先生惟有靠相關機構協助,將藥物寄返內地;或先將部分藥物帶回深圳旅館,再回港取餘下的藥物。兩父子現已回港定居,相伴了10多年。父親節將至,年過50歲的他,最大心願是見到明仔身體健康,可照顧自己。●





獨力養育愛滋病兒

好爸爸:無想過放棄他

_AM 人物 **里** 親家長養育下一代,已比一般家庭吃力,若愛兒有病需付出的心力, 更非一般人可想;身形瘦削的陳先生(化名)十多年來父兼母職,獨力 撫養經母體感染愛滋病的兒子——明仔(化名),他憶述,親戚獲悉明仔有病

後即時拒絕代為照顧,在內地工作的他,唯有與愛子一同返內地生活,但每隔3個月要帶同兒子回港覆診,看著愛兒忍受舟車勞頓之苦外,帶藥水過關亦曾被扣起。

文、圖:葉佩妍

無怨過太太

現時已17歲的明仔是經母體感染愛滋 病,陳先生懷疑是緬甸籍的太太曾在泰國 做切除大腿硬塊手術時,被輸入帶有愛滋 病毒的血液而染病,他稱,「我有怨過我 太太,一切都係命運嘅安排。」

其後妻子離世,於內地從事傢俬製造的陳先生唯有把當時年僅1歲的明仔交由親戚照顧,陳先生指,明仔出生後經常肚瀉,有次親戚帶他找醫生作詳細檢查時,確診他患上愛滋病,「嗰時佢得兩歲幾,啲親戚知道之後好驚,用張被包住自己驚俾明仔傳染,亦唔肯再照顧佢。」陳先生只好與明仔一同返回內地,再聘請保母照顧他。

帶藥回內地被誤會走水貨

年紀小小的明仔·每次服藥時又哭又

嘔吐,陳先生看著愛子,既辛苦又心痛;明仔每3個月便要到醫院覆診,但他們居於內地較偏遠地區,因經濟能力,未能負擔每次也乘飛機回港,只好忍受25小時的車程。他苦笑道,除舟車勞頓外,覆診後過關才是更大考驗,「每次覆診完都有廿幾支玻璃樽裝藥水,試過俾海關以為我走水貨,淨係俾我帶三分一走,其他就扣起,之後又要再過多次關先可以拎番。」

父親節只望兒子好好照顧自己

陳先生稱,自從明仔確診後,已不會 再到別人的家或邀請朋友到家中玩樂,故 性格亦較內向及怕與人接觸。周日便是父 親節,陳先生表示,沒有甚麼願望,亦沒 有特別慶祝活動,現時只希望快將成年的 明仔會好好照顧自己,亦期望大眾對愛滋 病患者給予空間,不再存在歧視。

CITY

HEALTH

'I COULD NEVER GIVE UP ON MY HIV-POSITIVE SON'

After his wife died when their child was just one, Mr Chan gave all he could for his boy. Now, Aids activists hail him as a role model

Lo Wei

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Being a single father is not easy. Being a single father with an HIVinfected child is even harder.

But when the father is unemployed and has to travel back and forth between the mainland and Hong Kong every three months carrying up to 20 bottles of medicine – while fighting off accusations of being a smuggler—the challenges seem almost insurmountable.

That was the situation faced by Mr Chan, 55, after his Myanmese wife died of Aids when their son was a year old. But he persevered.

"I had never thought of giving up," said the Hongkonger, who does not want his full name published. "That would have been impossible. I would only think of ways to face each day."

Chan has been put forward as an example to other parents by the Society for Aids Care, which has been helping him for more than a decade.

The society's chief executive, Alice Chan Lai-hing, said the pair's case had touched her a lot.

"There are some irresponsible parents who just abandon their children and let the Hong Kong government take care of them. Mr Chan is a strong man, a very great dad," she said.

Chan was working on the mainland when his wife died in Hong Kong in 1998, two weeks after being diagnosed with Aids. Doctors believed she contracted the disease through a blood transfusion while undergoing surgery in Thailand.

A relative took care of the boy at first.

But when the boy was diagnosed as HIV-positive at the age of two, Chan sensed the relative did not want to continue. After completing initial treatment in Hong Kong, Chan took his son to the mainland city where he worked in the furniture design industry.

He would not give the location, except to say that it was a two-hour flight or a 20-hour train journey from Hong Kong.

He worked for nine hours a day, leaving his son with a nanny, and spent the rest of the time taking care of the boy.

The most difficult part was giving him his medicine.
"It upset me a lot because it

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He has grown up and I'm growing old. I can't always take care of him

MR CHAN ON HIS SON

was so agonising for him," Chan said. "The medicine was bitter and irritating. He used to cry and sometimes vomit after taking it." He said he knew how bad it tasted because he tried it himself.

Things got more difficult when he lost his job, began working part-time to make ends meet and was unable to afford a nanny.

Even more difficult were the three-monthly trips to Hong Kong for treatment and medicine. No longer able to afford a flight, they travelled to Shenzhen by train and booked in at a guest house before crossing the border for the Hong Kong hospital visit.

They settled back in Hong Kong three years ago for the sake of his son's education.

The boy, being a Hongkonger, would not have been able to take the college entrance examination on the mainland.

Explaining why he never gave up, Chan said: "I would tell myself that there might be new medications to cure him in the future or that he would remain stable by taking his medicine."

His biggest hope for his son, now 17, is that he will stay healthy

and independent.

"He has grown up and I'm growing old. I can't always take care of him," he said.



Mr Chan says the hardest part was giving his son – who is now 17 – his medicine, which was bitter and made him cry. Photo: K. Y. Cheng

單親父伴愛滋兒 只求兒健康

妻染病毒亡 歎「命運要咁安排」

____ 張面具,到底是華麗的裝飾,還是 不能輕易卸下的武裝。在掛上一張 張手繪面具玻璃的背後,是每個受母體感 染的愛滋病童與家人的抗病故事。

有感染愛滋的病童與父親相依10多年,父親節臨近,這名單親父最大的心願就是孩子能身體健康。

■本報記者 謝楚宜

「老實講,我哋都好封閉自己。」陳先生(化名)的兒子明仔(化名),出生時已是受母體感染的愛滋病患者。眾人眼中的明仔,只是需要每天吃藥、性格內向的男生,10多年來真相甚少對外揭閱。

向學校隱瞞 怕兒子沒書讀

向學校隱瞞,陳先生説是很怕兒子會因此沒書 讀;早年曾有親戚知道明仔的病情,卻在當刻用棉 被蓋着自己,怕被他感染,「我哋以後唔會去人哋 屋企,亦唔會請親戚去我哋屋企。」陳生説。

明仔的媽媽在他一歲多大時因愛滋病離世。 他憶述,緬甸籍的陳太在懷孕前於泰國動腿部手術,輸血時不幸感染愛滋病毒,但他俩一直不知情。直到陳太誕下明仔一年多後,她的健康突然 急轉直下而回鄉就醫,才發現原來感染病毒,但 一切已太遲,陳太不久便不治。

其後兩父子在港進行身體檢查,發現只有兒子染病,「好六神無主,該唔到會發生。」據衞生署資料,懷孕的婦女若帶有愛滋病病毒,嬰兒受傳染機會約為15%至40%,明仔偏偏被選中了。事情來到也不能埋怨甚麼,陳先生說:「命運要咁安排。」

曾遇有心人撫養 惟未成事

頓成單親爸爸,明仔亦自幼需到醫院定期覆診及服藥,他直言曾感覺走投無路;但最難過的,還是看着年幼的明仔吃藥水,「真係好苦, 我都試過。」

上天沒有把明仔生命的苦杯挪開,陳生卻一 直沒有放棄照顧明仔。唯一的一次例外,是明仔 入院初期,一名愛滋寧養服務協會的捐助者認為 與明仔有緣份,提出將明仔的撫養權交給她;考 慮到自己當時的工作需長年留在內地,但明仔卻 要在港留院治療數月再定期覆診,他經思量後答 應。但最終該名女士卻因家人反對而不成事。

當時在內地從事傢俬製造的他,由工場回港,坐飛機每單程要數小時,坐火車更逾20小時。

明仔每年要回港覆診4次,早年每次帶着20 多樽的藥水越過重重入境關卡,約一半時間陳生 會被深圳當局誤當成水客,將三分二的藥物扣 起。加上當年內地政府拒絕愛滋病患者入境,故 不能向他們出示藥物用途。

陳先生形容,結果往往要靠機構的協助,將 藥物寄返內地:或者先將一些藥物帶回深圳旅 館,再回港取回餘下藥物。

兩父子現已回港定居,相依相伴過了10多年。父親節快到,陳先生說多年來未有特別慶祝,現已年過50歲,最大的心願就是明仔身體健康,並想到自己年紀漸長,希望明仔將來可自己照顧自己。何



▲陳生(左,化名)顧大眾給予愛滋病者多些空間,視它如普通病患。右為愛滋寧養服務協會行政總監陳麗卿。 (林宇翔攝)

病童父盼視普通病看待



日常社交並不會令愛滋病傳播,有病患者 父親冀大眾予病者空間,視它如普通病患。

陳先生説,明仔兒時經常肚屙,可每日出現6至8次,相信與他缺少CD4淋巴細胞的白血球有關。

他的親友曾因害怕受感染而將棉被蓋着自己,愛滋寧養服務協會的資料顯示,一般社交接觸不會傳播病毒,包括唾液、鼻水、眼液等,握手、上課工作或公用泳池,也不會受感染;病毒主要傳播涂徑是性接觸、血液接觸及母嬰傳播。

作為病患者的父親,陳先生籲大眾給予病者多些空間, 「希望啲人唔好對呢個病咁大反應,唔係見一見就咁易感 染,當係普通病咁,會開心好多。」 **∫ ■本報記者 謝楚宜**

愛滋兒拒服藥 慈父示範「吃苦」

【明報專訊】明仔兩歲多確診愛滋病,屬 母嬰感染個案,當時其母已因病去世。55歲 慈父獨力養子,當年因工作要帶他到內地生 活,經常請假帶他回港覆診,曾一度因失業 無錢坐飛機,需坐25小時火車來港。兒子拒 服藥,他則親自示範服食,並説「爸爸食 到,你都可以食到(苦藥)!」爲免遭旁人 白眼,兩口子鮮與外界接觸,有時感徬徨, 陳父咬緊牙關從不放棄。如今兒子已17歲, 而後日便是父親節,陳父只盼愛子身體健 康。

父親節願望:子身體健康

55歲陳父早年在内地工作,90年代與緬甸 妻子結婚,其後誕下明仔,一直交由親戚照 顧。豈料,兒子出生後兩年,妻子確診愛滋 病,並在確診後約兩周去世,疑是以往在泰 國輸血時受感染。

照顧明仔的親友發現他經常腹瀉,帶他求 醫後確診愛滋病。身在內地的陳父即趕回 港,該親友怕得「用被蓋住自己」,爲免打 搞他人,陳父只好把兒子帶回內地照顧。明 仔幼時因藥苦澀不肯服藥,陳父親身示範吃 藥,並說:「爸爸食到,你都可以食到!」

親自照顧 鼓勵「人會病 別介懷」

外界戴有色眼鏡看愛滋病,陳父坦言兩父 子多年「封閉」,「我們不敢去別人家,不 會與親友出去玩」,無論兒子在內地或在港 求學,他都不敢向學校説明病情,「我不想 隱瞞,只是怕兒子無書讀!」

除了没告訴學校,陳父在明仔年幼時,都 没告訴他感染愛滋病,明仔問何以要常吃 藥,陳父起初説「抗體不足」,直至他13歲 才告知真相。明仔獲知真相反應不大,未知 他是否不開心,陳父只好鼓勵他「每個人都 會病,不要太介懷」。

昔日陳父在内地工作,每3個月帶子回港 檢查,後來他在内地失業打散工,無法支付 機票費用,要改乘通宵火車返港。

協助明仔的愛滋寧養服務協會行政總監陳 麗卿表示,部分家長會因子女有愛滋病而送 他們到孤兒院,但陳父一直堅持,故當初爲 他籌旅費,讓他可乘飛機及回港留宿,不用 再奔波。