

Giving a part of himself to the love of his life

KUALA LUMPUR: Six years ago, when Gordon Ling Fu Chur's wife was diagnosed with kidney failure he decided to donate one of his kidneys to her.

The 34-year-old commercial and documentary director's undying love for Jaslynn Tay, 36, not only helped to save her life but that of their unborn baby as well since she was in the first trimester of her pregnancy at the time.

It has now been half a decade since the kidney transplant, and the couple and their five-year-old daughter Caitlyn are healthy, happy and free from any health complications. Individually, their kidneys are functioning normally.

Donating a kidney to a family member or close relative is quite common on the basis of familial bonds. However, not many are prepared to make that sacrifice.

According to Universiti Putra Malaysia consultant nephrologist and lecturer Dr Nor Fadhlina Zakaria, more than 22,000 patients undergoing dialysis nationwide are waiting for donors to undergo kidney transplant, but each year only about 40 are lucky enough to get a new kidney.

In some cases, family members and close relatives are reluctant to donate a kidney due to lack of understanding and knowledge of the process.

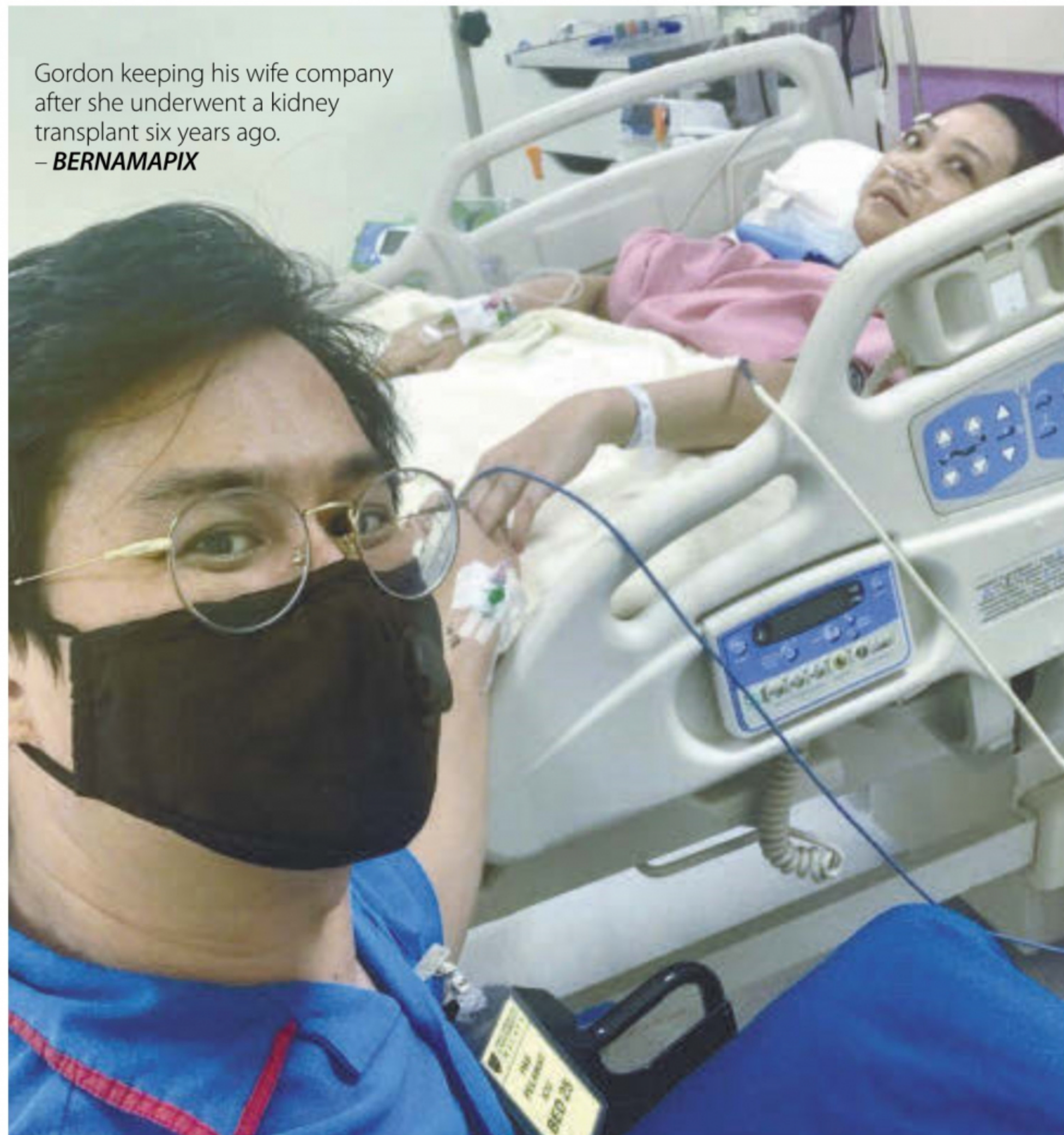
"Many of them are worried about their own safety and the complications that may arise if they donate an organ," she said, adding that myths and misconceptions about organ donation prevent some individuals from signing up to be organ donors.

However, even if one wants to donate an organ it not as simple as going under the knife.

Living donors who wish to donate a kidney will have to go through a series of rigid health screenings to ensure that they are eligible to donate the organ concerned.

According to Nor Fadhlina, human beings can lead a healthy and normal life with just one kidney.

She said a kidney donor's risk of developing complications is low if they are regularly



Gordon keeping his wife company after she underwent a kidney transplant six years ago.

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monitored by a nephrologist. In the case of the recipient, their organ rejection risk factors can be lowered if they comply with their anti-rejection medication regime.

Those who wish to donate a kidney to a family member can go to a specialist. Those intending

to donate their organs after death have to register themselves as a donor manually or online.

Organ donation pledge registration forms are available at all government hospitals and online registration can be done by sending an email to ntrc@moh.gov.my. – Bernama