

Headline	Girl, five, gets HIV through blood transfusion		
MediaTitle	The Sun		
Date	13 Jan 2015	Color	Black/white
Section	World	Circulation	302,477
Page No	10	Readership	907,431
Language	English	ArticleSize	104 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,440
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 4,320



## Girl, five, gets HIV through blood transfusion

**BEIJING:** A five-year-old girl in China contracted HIV through a blood transfusion, state media reported, the latest case to shine a light on an issue that has long bedevilled the country.

According to the official news agency Xinhua, the girl, nicknamed Maomao, was infected during an operation for congenital heart disease in 2010 in Fujian province.

She tested positive for HIV last year after she had come down with a fever for 17 days, Xinhua said.

A Fujian government official told Xinhua that one of eight donors whose blood was used during the operation was in a "window period" during which the virus was undetectable.

The donor was later found to have HIV.

Nearly half a million people are living with HIV/AIDS in China, according to figures released last month by the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

In the 1990s, rural parts of

China - particularly Henan province - were hit by the country's most debilitating AIDS epidemic.

It stemmed from a tainted government-backed blood donation programme and infected tens of thousands of people, including entire villages.

Currently, sexual transmission accounts for more than 90% of infections, according to the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. But transmission through blood transfusions remains an issue.

In the Fujian case, an investigation found that "neither the hospital nor the blood centre had broken any law" as the donor was in the window period, Xinhua reported on Sunday, adding that negotiations on compensation were under way with the family.

The same donor's blood was also used for two other operations, and officials are trying to track down the patients, Xinhua said. - AFP