

SABAH MOBILE ENDOSCOPIC SERVICE, EASY ACCESS FOR EVERYONE

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Introduction

Sabah is the 2nd largest state in Malaysia with a population of 3.83 million, which 25.3% of the population still living below the national poverty line¹. A lot of patients have limited access to standard medical care due to cost of medical care, transportation, health literacy and lack of healthcare insurance which led to delay in diagnosis for gastrointestinal disease. Globalization of health care had encouraged us to create a united team which provides endoscopic service to rural district regions.

Discussion

We started mobile endoscopic service with “Karl Storz” TELEPACK VET X³ system since 2014. Since then, we have expanded our endoscopic services to 4 district hospitals monthly. A total of 2297 endoscopic examination included 1529 oesophagogastroduodenoscopy (OGDS) and 768 colonoscopies have been carried out. This effort has detected patients with gastrointestinal malignancy early. From 2019-2022, Sabah has recorded a total of 660 cases of colorectal cancer, 63 new cases of esophageal cancer and 161 news cases of gastric cancer.

Conclusion: The availability of mobile endoscopic system bridges the limitation of healthcare service to Sabah district population. Hence, to ensure the sustainability of this service, it is essential for us to have both well-trained district specialists or medical officer and good quality of mobile endoscopic equipment.

References

1. DOSM pocket stats Q1 2022.
2. Karl Storz, TELE PACK Manual 2013.