

ENDOSCOPIC RETROGRADE CHOLANGIO-PANCREATOGRAPHY (ERCP) - Global Surgery Initiative for Ascending Cholangitis in District (Sandakan Perspective)

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Introduction and Objective:

ERCP is common yet technically challenging procedure used in treating Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary diseases. Most cases in our facility involve choledocholithiasis and palliative stenting for pancreatic cancer. This outreach aims to expand and make ERCP service accessible for patients from all walks of life, either urban or rural areas of Sandakan, Sabah. Since 2011, ERCP service has been provided to patients from Sandakan and neighbouring districts such as Kinabatangan, Beluran, Tonged and Telupid. We also extend our service and treat patients from Lahad Datu, Kunak, Tawau and Semporna. At the moment, our facility is the only ERCP service provider outside Kota Kinabalu.

Methods:

A retrospective analysis of all ERCPS' over 2 years in Hospital Duchess of Kent, Sandakan, Sabah by single operational general surgeon. Study outcomes were based upon, and compared against number of ERCPS per annum, proportion of successful cannulations of bile duct and stone clearance, ERCP specific complications and mortality. Challenges studied include number of ERCP operators, apparatus quantity and operation room availability.

Results:

At our fraternity, more than 90 patients are treated with ERCP per annum, where more than 50% of them were patients from neighbouring district. Management of choledocholithiasis was the commonest indication for ERCP. Overall, 90% of bile ducts were successfully cannulated and 70% of those were patient's first ERCP. Bile duct clearance were achieved in 80% of patients. Complication rates caused by sepsis and pancreatitis were 5% and no procedure specific mortality recorded.

Conclusion:

High volume of performance and generous outcome achieved through ERCP service led by single surgeon despite resources limitations in district setting. Favourable and clear strategies must be developed to encourage more surgical centres to provide services like ERCP accessible to all, in order to achieve greater healthcare service and community.