

## **GLOBAL SURGERY - OUT TO THE DISTRICT**

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The concept of Global Surgery was introduced with the goal of working towards attainment of better health outcomes and equity through access to surgical care across the world. As a tertiary healthcare center in the southern region of Malaysia, we are expanding our service to Hospital Mersing. A district hospital located at the East coast, 120 kilometers away from Johor Bahru which caters for the health needs of estimated 71000 local residents and nearby area including Rompin and Pulau Tioman in Pahang.

Following the introduction and rollout of Global Surgery initiative since 2019, joint efforts are made in delivering optimal surgical care to the doorstep of local community. Surgical patients are able to receive expertise care in the district hospital with a rise in bed occupancy rate from 16.48% to 37% over the last 4 years, at the same time reducing the need of long-distance ambulance transfer. Apart from minor procedures, various surgery such as appendicectomy, hernioplasty, reversal of stoma, mastectomy and orchidectomy which require regional or general anesthesia can now be done with the availability of anesthetic support. Well-equipped operating theatre which was underutilized where only 6 surgeries were done in 2017, it is now in full function and achieved a total of 206 surgeries in 2022.

Global Surgery initiative shows positive impact on the delivery of surgical care in the district hospital. Together, we can do more.