

## Global Surgery

Making Surgical Health Care Assesible, An Experience from Kota Marudu, Sabah

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### Aim

Global surgery initiative aims to provide timely and safe surgical care especially in districts whereby logistic and financial constraint is the major obstacle. Kota Marudu was selected in 2019 under this initiative to establish surgical services. We present our experience thus far in the success and challenges of the initiative since then.

### Method

Beginning in August 2019, monthly surgical visiting services was set up offering clinic review, mobile endoscopy and surgical operation. With a team of 1 surgeon, 3 medical officers and 3 scope nurses visiting; a local medical officer with surgical interest will join in as well to gain experience.

### Result

With a population of 69,952, the nearest tertiary centre offering surgical care is Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Kota Kinabalu which is about 2 hours and 20 minutes away. This proves to be a major consideration for patients to seek further treatment. Often hands, a delay in early surgical consultation resulted in inappropriate or no treatment at all. Furthermore, the average income per household is about Rm 850/month for the population whereas a round trip transport cost can go up to rm100. This has led to further default and delayed presentation. For 6 months duration before covid-19, a total of 113 patients were seen in the clinic while 40 endoscopy and 14 surgeries were performed. Since then, patient default rate has reduced by 80% and disease detection were more prompt. Patient expenditure was also reduced by 11.7% of household income for each visit which adds up for patient requiring multiple visits. In addition, it has also cultivated surgical interest among local medical officers whereby 2 had since then joined surgical department HQE aiming for master of surgery.

### Conclusion

The benefits of global surgery initiative are indisputable and Kota Marudu serves as the best example.