

Endoscopy screening outreach programme in rural area and our experience by General Surgery Hospital Duchess of Kent, Sandakan

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Abstract

Introduction: Endoscopy screening programme have been performed in rural areas at Sandakan since 2013 in efforts of early screening and detection. The aim of the workshop was to bring interest for public who are unable to access for secondary or tertiary centres. The general surgical department of Hospital Sandakan has been visiting four centres such as Klinik Kesihatan Telupid, Klinik Kesihatan Tongod, Hospital Beluran and Hospital Kinabatangan for this outreach endoscopy programme. As we are venturing into the global surgery programme, we are intent to provide this service to more primary care centres.

Discussion:

This screening programme helps us to detect *Helicobacter pylori*, early cancer detection and expedite the early intervention. Besides that, this screening allows our general surgery residents to get opportunities and experience conducting screening programme in rural area. On the other hand, there are limitations for us in term of the portability of instruments, duration and distance of travelling to rural places from our centre. However, for future endoscopy screening programme, we are in hopes for more portable endoscopic equipment and also man power.

Conclusion : Endoscopy screening programmes in rural areas at Sandakan increases public interest and awareness for early screening and detection. Moreover, it advocates opportunities for surgical trainees in conducting awareness in rural area and promote a global perspective on healthcare.

keywords : *Endoscopy screening, early cancer detection, outreach programme*

