

ABSTRACT

Consensus: Cost Saving in General Surgery District Visiting in Sabah, towards Global Surgical Operation Programme

Muhamad Abdul Kudus Ibrahim^{1*}, Jonathan Seak Chen Ken²

¹ Hospital Kudat,
Sabah, Malaysia

² Department of Surgery,
Hospital Queen Elizabeth,
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

*Corresponding author's email:
ku_itachidus@yahoo.com

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Introduction: The Global Surgical Programme is about to embark this year in Sabah which aims to diversify and decentralize surgical procedure from only being operated in a tertiary centre. To the best of our knowledge, no comprehensive study has been carried out regarding the contribution of this programme in term of cost-saving. To tabulate and highlight the significance of General Surgery District Visiting in term of cost-saving earn by a patient when the surgical expertise is being diversified to a district hospital. **Methods:** This cross-sectional study conducted in Hospital Kudat from January to December 2019. From 752 patients that were seen by Visiting Team in 2019, data from 196 patients collected regarding their transportation cost to Hospital Kudat compared to the total cost borne by a patient to go to Hospital Queen Elizabeth in Kota Kinabalu. **Results:** We noted that a patient spent about RM77,413.06 to RM127,533.06 per year to get medical service in Hospital Queen Elizabeth compared to the range of RM8,893.55 to RM12,576.82 per year if they were being reviewed by Visiting team in Hospital Kudat. The total cost for General Surgery Visiting Team to come to Kudat per year is in the range of RM32,477.76 to RM44,072.40. This study shows that a cost saving of about RM47.92 to RM99.25 per patients gained from this programme. **Conclusion:** It is our best expectation that this study to some extent will highlight the significance of this programme regarding its contribution to cost efficiency and upgrading the healthcare service in Sabah.

