

## HOSHAS, TEMERLOH, PAHANG CREATES KLINIK KATARAK KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN CATARACT SURGICAL CARNIVAL HISTORY

The Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Hospital, Temerloh (HoSHAS), Pahang created history after successfully performing 108 cataract surgeries over two days from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

High cataract load and long operation waiting time triggered the planning of this cataract carnival. The initial framework included an organizing committee which involved hospital administration, the Ophthalmology department, operation theatre team and daycare unit. The cataract carnival was also supported by external surgeons and nursing staff from other hospitals. Equipment and technological support was provided by industrial partners as part of their charitable contribution.



The cataract carnival was officiated by Pahang Health Director, Dato' Indera Dr Shaari Ngadiman. In his opening speech, he acknowledged that the number of cataract induced blindness in Pahang was on the rise with the increased life expectancy of Malaysians. He further emphasized that the state health department will continue to improve the quality of service to the people, including through ongoing health promotion activities, provision of health facilities and the purchase of new assets in hospitals and health clinics.

A total of 108 cataract operations were performed with 60 cases on the first day and 48 cases on the next. This involved 9 (nine) surgeons assisted by 70 (seventy) staff members from HoSHAS, Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan (HTAA) and University of Institute Technology Mara Medical Centre (UiTM).

Patients were recruited from 5 different districts in Pahang i.e. Temerloh, Maran, Jerantut, Bentong and Bera. Ethnicity distribution of the patients was 66.7% Malay, 33.3% Chinese and Indians. A majority of the patients were from a low income group, hence the

intraocular lens was supported by Zakat Fund Majlis Ugama Islam Pahang (MUIP), Peka B40 scheme and JPA.

Pre-operative visual acuity for the eye planned for cataract surgery was primarily of moderate visual impairment at <math><6/18</math> to <math>6/60</math> (38.6%), followed by early visual impairment at <math><6/12</math> to <math>6/18</math> (28.9%), a blind group <math><3/60</math> (12%), <math>6/12</math> and better (10.8%) and severe visual impairment group <math><6/60</math> to <math>3/60</math> (9.6%).

All patients underwent phacoemulsification with 99.1% being uncomplicated. Only 1 patient had a surgical complication of intraocular zonular dehiscence. More than 95% of the operations were completed within 30 minutes. Post-operatively, 97.2% of patients without ocular comorbidity achieved a best corrected vision (BCVA) of <math>6/12</math> or better with a final refraction.

This cataract carnival not only restored vision to Malaysians, but it also reduced the cataract operation waiting time in Hospital Temerloh from 3 months to less than 6 weeks. We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all involved parties for this success. We will continue to work hard and organize cataract carnivals once the Covid-19 restrictions are over. With this article, we hope to encourage other states and district eye hospitals to perform cataract carnivals at their centres. Also, we would be glad to provide statistics to help in planning allocation and budget for such high impact health projects in the future.

[Please click here for more photos and newspaper reports on this event.](#)



**DR TAN CHAI KEONG**

Ophthalmologist  
Hospital Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, Temerloh, Pahang