

## New medical innovations to address rising cancer burden in Malaysia

PROSTATE, pancreatic and liver cancers remain among the most pressing health challenges in Malaysia, with late-stage diagnoses continuing to impact patient outcomes.

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers affecting Malaysian men, with many cases detected only at advanced stages.

Liver cancer is also one of the most common cancers among Malaysians, while pancreatic cancer remains one of the deadliest due to late detection and limited treatment options.

In Petaling Jaya, Hospital Picaso – a dedicated centre of excellence for advanced surgery and integrated oncology – is responding to these challenges with next-generation treatment options.

It is the leading hospital in Malaysia to offer Irreversible Electroporation (IRE), a non-thermal ablation technique that targets cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue.

This innovation represents a significant advancement in prostate cancer care, giving patients more precise options with fewer



The Hospital Picaso medical team is showcasing a cutting-edge, minimally invasive therapy for patients with prostate cancer.

long-term complications.

“This technique gives us a targeted way to treat prostate cancer, while reducing damage to surrounding structures,” said Hospital Picaso consultant urologist Datuk Dr Loh Chit Sin.

“This treatment can help patients to retain urinary continence and preserve erectile dysfunction.”

“These outcomes address two of the biggest concerns men face – maintaining quality of life

while seeking effective care.”

Known as Irreversible Electroporation (IRE), this technique utilises high-voltage electrical pulses to destroy cancer cells without the use of heat.

This method allows treatment near delicate structures, such as nerves, ducts and blood vessels, making it suitable for tumours in the prostate as well as liver, pancreas and kidneys.

It reflects a more personalised approach to cancer care that

supports both survival and post-treatment well-being.

Building on this advancement, Hospital Picaso is also introducing the Electrochemotherapy (ECT), further expanding its interventional oncology capabilities.

ECT combines short electrical pulses with localised chemotherapy to enhance drug absorption directly into tumour cells.

It is particularly effective for difficult-to-access or previously

unresponsive tumours in the liver and pancreas.

By concentrating treatment where it's needed most, while limiting systemic side effects, ECT offers new hope to patients with limited options.

New technologies are expanding what's possible but early detection is still key to better outcomes.

“When we detect prostate, pancreatic or liver cancer early, we're able to offer options that are less invasive and more targeted,” said Dr Loh.

“With techniques like Irreversible Electroporation and Electrochemotherapy, we're not just treating the disease – we're giving patients more control over their treatment journey.”

At Hospital Picaso, these innovations represent more than medical advancement.

They mark a shift in how cancer care is delivered – giving patients better options, making treatments more precise and helping people live more fully during and after recovery.

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A MALAYSIAN doctor seeking a practical and patriotic way to dress at work has started a quiet fashion trend by producing a range of hospital-compliant scrubs for healthcare employees.

Dr Nisha Puvan, who works in a government hospital in Kuala Lumpur, said it started as a passion project.

"Wearing vibrant (batik) prints lifted my spirits and created a positive effect on my colleagues and patients," she told Bernama.

She founded clothing brand craftbynishapuvan which she runs from Subang Jaya, Selangor.

She said the idea took off during the Covid-19 movement control order in 2020 when she began making batik face masks.

In August 2023, when the Public Service Department issued a directive requiring civil servants, including doctors in public hospitals, to wear batik every Thursday, Dr Nisha decided to create batik scrubs for hospital staff.

To make sure the batik attire would not compromise on practicality and hygiene, she carried out research and tested fabrics that met infection-control standards to ensure they remained breathable, durable and colourfast.

"The scrubs had to be short-sleeved, free from embellishments that could potentially harbour bacteria and withstand frequent washing.

"I wore them daily – tweaking pocket sizes, material thickness and even testing how colours held up over time," she said.

The scrubs, she said, were made from cotton-blend fabrics adorned with batik prints, handcrafted by local artisans using traditional techniques.

For Dr Nisha, functionality is key.

"Doctors are constantly on the move – from clinics to wards to emergency rooms – and we carry many items," said the internal medicine specialist with a special interest in gastroenterology.

"So, I designed (scrubs with)

# Doctor fosters patriotic fashion trend in hospitals

## Stylish batik scrubs worn locally, abroad by M'sian professionals



Dr Nisha says producing the batik print hospital scrubs is her form of patriotism, and seeing others wearing them reminds her the Malaysian heritage is alive, adaptable and proudly worn. — Bernama

large pockets and added tailored features without compromising style."

Today, her scrubs are being worn by many doctors working in government and private hospitals and at private practices nationwide.

While she currently receives bulk orders from certain departments of government hospitals, Dr Nisha has expressed a desire to collaborate with the Health Ministry to supply batik scrubs to public hospitals on a

larger scale.

She said some district hospitals ordered scrubs in specific colours – such as blue for Mondays and green for Tuesdays.

Her client base also included Malaysian professionals working abroad, particularly in the United Kingdom and Australia.

"It is mostly Malaysians abroad who want to wear something that connects them to home."

"Batik gives them a sense of pride in being Malaysian."

Dr Nisha manages her

business on her own – from handling her social media accounts and taking orders to quality control and packaging.

"It is a one-woman show. I have a couple of tailors, but I do everything else," she said, adding that her four-year-old twin daughters were also involved in the creative process.

"If a print is not attractive, they will say so. It is my way of introducing them to their Malaysian heritage."

Apart from scrubs, the brand

also offers customised batik sarees, *cheongsam*, *baju melayu*, *lehenga* and coordinated family sets.

"We cater to all body types," Dr Nisha said, adding that some families chose a single signature batik print and would request different styles to be made, such as a *cheongsam* for mum, Mandarin-collared shirt for dad and matching outfits for the children.

Recognising the need for modest wear among Muslim doctors, the brand is expanding its range of scrubs to include adjustable sleeves, longer tunics and higher necklines.

Sustainability is also a priority, with craftbynishapuvan using deadstock fabrics – leftover materials from larger productions – to reduce waste.

Dr Nisha attends to her business after working hours, often packaging orders at night while her children are asleep.

"When I am at work, I stay fully focused on my patients."

"Craft comes after-hours... it is how I unwind and recalibrate."

Referring to her batik scrubs, she said: "This is my form of patriotism. A quiet pride."

"We may not realise it, but even what we wear can carry our identity, dignity and culture into places that feel cold and clinical."

"Every time I see a doctor in batik scrubs, not just in my hospital but any other place, it reminds me that the Malaysian heritage is alive, adaptable and proudly worn."



**Johor Bahru:** Pengoperasian Hospital Pasir Gudang (HPG) yang dijadualkan secara berperingkat sejak 1 Ogos lalu terpaksa ditangguhkan ke tahun depan berikutan beberapa isu teknikal.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan dan Alam Sekitar negeri Ling Tian Soon berkata, antara isu utama adalah kekurangan petugas kesihatan termasuk doktor dan jururawat.

Menurutnya, kerajaan negeri dan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) bersetuju untuk menangguhkan pembukaan hospital berkenaan bagi mengelak sebarang komplikasi akibat kekurangan kakitangan.

"Kekurangan petugas kesihatan antara isu utama yang sedang kami hadapi. Jika hospital ini beroperasi tanpa tenaga kerja mencukupi, kami bimbang pelbagai isu dan masalah akan ada pada masa

## Pengoperasian HPG terpaksa ditunda tahun depan

akan datang.

"Bagaimanapun, HPG tidak akan dibiarkan tidak berfungsi sebaliknya akan menjadi fasiliti sokongan kepada Hospital Sultanah Aminah (HSA) dan Hospital Sultan Ismail (HSI) yang merupakan dua hospital tersibuk di negeri ini," katanya ketika dihubungi, di sini, semalam.

Menurut Tian Soon, pihaknya akan meneruskan perbincangan bersama KKM bagi memastikan HPG dapat memulakan operasi dengan jumlah petugas yang mencukupi.

Pada 29 Jun lalu, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad dilaporkan berkata, HPG

akan memulakan operasi fasa pertamanya pada 1 Ogos lalu membabitkan kira-kira 30 peratus daripada keseluruhan operasi hospital berkenaan.

Beliau turut memaklumkan pengoperasiannya akan dilaksanakan secara berperingkat sehingga ia beroperasi sepenuhnya pada Julai tahun depan.

Hospital Pasir Gudang (HPG) yang dibangunkan dengan kos keseluruhan RM500 juta adalah hospital awam yang ketiga di Johor Bahru selepas HSA dan HSI.

HPG yang berkeluasan 20.6 hektar terletak di Bandar Seri Alam dilengkapi 304 katil dan 14 perkhidmatan pakar.

# Hospital Pasir Gudang tangguh pembukaan akibat kurang doktor

Kerajaan negeri, KKM capai persetujuan bagi elak komplikasi operasi jika kurang kakitangan

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**Johor Bahru:** Kekurangan doktor dan jururawat menyebabkan Hospital Pasir Gudang yang sepatutnya mula beroperasi secara berperingkat mulai awal bulan ini, terpaksa ditangguhkan hingga tahun depan.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan dan Alam Sekitar Johor, Ling Tian Soon, berkata kerajaan negeri dan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bersetuju dengan penangguhan operasi hospital itu bagi mengelak sebarang komplikasi akibat kekurangan kakitangan.

"Kekurangan petugas kesihatan antara isu utama yang sedang kami hadapi. Jika hospital ini beroperasi tanpa tenaga kerja mencukupi, kami bimbang pel-



Hospital Pasir Gudang dibangunkan dengan kos keseluruhan RM500 juta adalah hospital awam ketiga di Johor Bahru.

(Foto Omar Ahmad/BH)

bagai isu dan masalah akan ada pada masa akan datang.

"Bagaimanapun Hospital Pasir Gudang tidak akan dibiarkan tidak berfungsi, sebaliknya akan menjadi fasiliti sokongan kepada Hospital Sultanah Aminah dan Hospital Sultan Ismail yang menjadi dua hospital paling di negeri ini," katanya di sini, semalam.

Tian Soon berkata, pihaknya akan meneruskan perbincangan

bersama KKM bagi memastikan Hospital Pasir Gudang dapat memulakan operasi dengan jumlah petugas yang mencukupi.

Pada 29 Jun lalu, dalam lawatan kerja Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkifly Ahmad, dilaporkan berkata Hospital Pasir Gudang akan memulakan operasi fasa pertamanya bermula 1 Ogos lalu membabitkan kira-kira 30 peratus daripada keseluruhan operasi hospital berkenaan.

Beliau turut memaklumkan pengoperasiannya akan dilaksanakan secara berperingkat sehingga ia beroperasi secara sepenuhnya pada Julai 2026.

## Dilengkapi 304 katil

Hospital Pasir Gudang yang dibangunkan dengan kos keseluruhan RM500 juta adalah hospital awam yang ketiga di Johor Bahru, selepas Hospital Sultanah Aminah dan Hospital Sultan Ismail.

Hospital Pasir Gudang yang berkeluasan 20.6 hektar dan terletak di Bandar Seri Alam itu dilengkapi dengan 304 katil dan 14 perkhidmatan pakar.

Antara fasiliti Hospital Pasir Gudang termasuk 36 unit blok kuarters kakitangan mengandungi Kelas C; 50 unit blok asrama jururawat selain 1,507 lot parkir kereta, 320 lot tempat letak motosikal dan 32 lot tempat letak kereta OKU.