

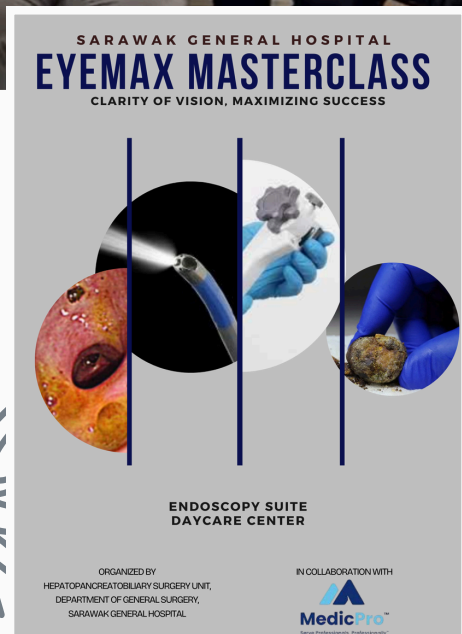
EYEMAX MASTERCLASS

BY AZZYATI DAHLAN



TRAINING NEXT GENERATION OF HPB SURGEONS

Peroral cholangioscopy (POCS) is coming to its 50th year since its introduction in the 1970s. Recent advancement has been encouraging with introduction of not only upgraded specifications but also AI integrations, promising to further improve diagnostic accuracy and broaden its application worldwide.



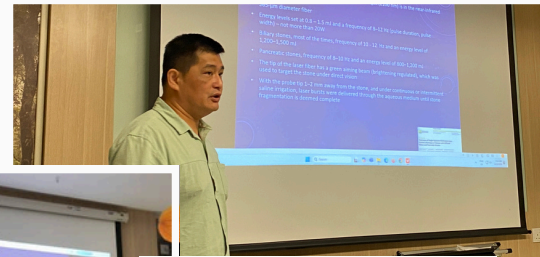
POCS is an advanced adjunct to ERCP, therefore one of the prerequisites for training is a referral center that can provide the case volume. Last year in 2024, Sarawak General Hospital recorded a total of 1087 ERCP cases, 87% of which were performed by HPB surgeons and fellows. Majority of these cases were stone diseases; inevitably a small percentage consisted of cases where complete stone clearance has failed.

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IF THERE IS NO STRUGGLE, THERE IS NO PROGRESS

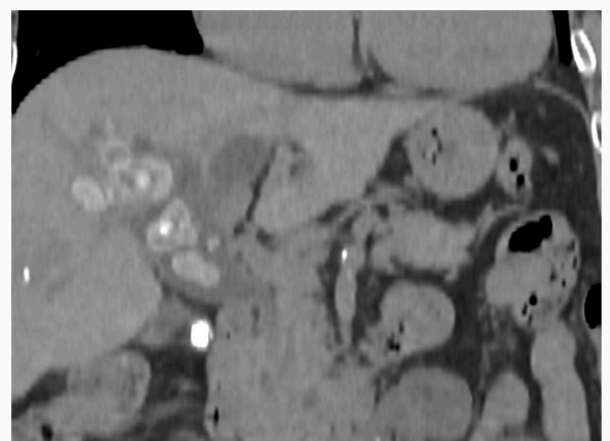
Since not all of these cases are suitable for surgical intervention under general anaesthesia, we have been struggling to arrange the logistics of acquiring a holmium laser system so that we can commence our cholangioscopy service. Recently our effort came to fruition, and finally we were able to organize our 3rd annual cholangioscopy workshop with the full support of our industrial partner.

The 2-day hands-on workshop was held from 14th to 15th August 2025 at the Endoscopy Suite, Daycare Center, Sarawak General Hospital. Associate Professor (AP) Leow Voon Meng from Advanced Medical & Dental Institute (AMDI), Universiti Sains Malaysia has agreed to be our esteemed facilitator during the event.



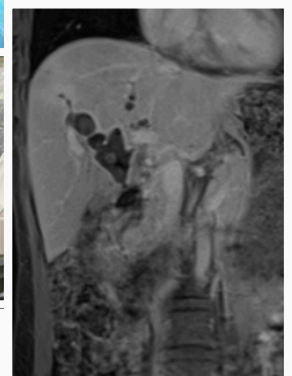
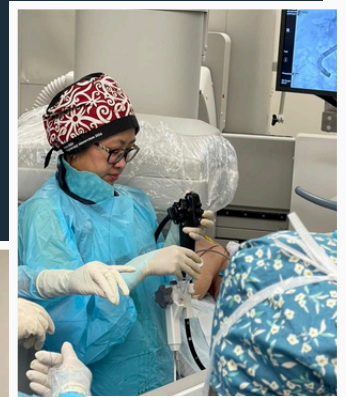
The first day commenced with a welcome speech by Mr Nik Azim Nik Abdullah, followed by a lecture by AP Leow titled "Introduction to Cholangioscopy: Basics for Beginners." The 45-minute lecture was informative with real-world examples that brought the theory to life. The subsequent presentation was delivered by Mr Tham Tao Leong, representative from Medic Pro Healthcare Sdn Bhd titled "Eyemax™ Cholangioscope: State of the Art." This was followed by question & answer session that provide opportunities for the participants to further narrow the knowledge gap and reinforce deeper understanding of the product and procedure.

The first case of the day was a 78-year-old gentleman with multiple co-morbid, who has been suffering bouts of cholangitis secondary to bilateral hepatolithiasis with choledocholithiasis the previous years before finally referred to us for further management. We managed to reduce his stone burden and he was scheduled for left sided PTBD with subsequent upsizing prior to percutaneous cholangioscopy and laser lithotripsy in the near future.



HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST WAY TO LEARN

We performed a total of 8 cases under monitored sedation without any adverse events during the allocated 2 days. All of the cases were stone diseases and we managed to achieve 75% clearance rate during this initial session. The participants benefitted from the hands-on experience and was mentored on the proper techniques of performing cholangioscopy and the safe handling of laser lithotripsy. The Eyemax™ cholangioscopy system proved to be advantageous in such setting, with flexible choices of scope sizes of either 3.9 or 3.2 mm, enhanced by its 160k pixel resolution and 120-degree angle of view.



Hands-on workshops, especially those conducted overseas can be expensive. Creating a structured learning opportunity focusing on foundational skills with no charge has been our aim since the inception of this workshop in 2023. Looking to the future, we hope our effort ensures that emerging HPB surgeons are not only knowledgeable but also highly competence, ready to rise to the evolving challenges of increasingly sophisticated endoscopic techniques.