

## ESTABLISHING SARCOMA NETWORK FOR NORTHERN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA. 1ST STEP INTO A WONDERFUL JOURNEY.

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**Introduction:** Sarcomas are best treated at multidisciplinary center. However, due to limited resources and large coverage by Orthopaedic Oncology unit Penang General Hospital, we have successfully created a Northern Peninsular Malaysia Sarcoma Network(NPMSN).

**Methodology:** From Perlis to Ipoh, all sarcoma cases are under the management of Penang Orthopaedic Oncology unit headed by only 2 sarcoma surgeons. We have identified and established a team of doctors in each of the referring hospital. These are, Hospital Kangar, Hospital Sultanah bahiyah, Alor Setar, Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Sungai Petani, Hospital Taiping and Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh. The team in each hospital consist of a specialist and several MOs. Each hospital has a whatsApp group that enables the specialist and MO to discuss with Penang Hospital.

**Discussion:** We have treated on average 300 clinic and 80 orthopaedic oncology surgeries outside Penang GH each year since 2018. We have 1 specialist who has pursue into orthopaedic oncology fellowship and 3 more who are inspired. This system also allows the masters students and MOs to get orthopaedic oncology exposure despite being outside sarcoma centers. Patients treated are thankful that they do not have to travel to Penang GH for their appointment. Besides creating interest among the orthopaedics fraternity, we also create fond interest for orthopaedic oncology among, radiologist and pathologist in the referring hospitals.

**Conclusion:** NPMSN has benefited many sarcoma patients in the Northern Region of Peninsular Malaysia. It can easily be replicated by other sarcoma units as well with very minimal resources. Above all, it is an excellent method to instil interest in this budding field of orthopaedic oncology among new surgeons.