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UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

IMED BULL'

FACULTY OF MEDICINE UTM



TRAUMAX 2026: UⁱTM EMERGES CHAMPION



Through the
Medical
Lens

**BREAKING
SILOS: WHY HIV
PREVENTION
IS EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY**

**EMPOWERING
THE EDUCATORS
OF TOMORROW: A
PRACTICAL GEMINI &
NOTEBOOKLM SKILLS
WORKSHOP**



**UNIVRAB-UⁱTM INBOUND
PROGRAMME: ACADEMIC EXCHANGE
AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE**



**SIALENDOSCOPY: TOWARDS
ORGAN PRESERVATION SURGERY**





A NEW ERA IN AIRWAY SURGERY: MALAYSIA'S FIRST LARYNGOLOGY PROCEDURE USING THE ENDOFIX EXO ROBOTIC ARM AT HOSPITAL AL-SULTAN ABDULLAH UiTM

■ Assoc. Prof. Dr. Norazila Abdul Rahim

Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah (HASA) UiTM Puncak Alam, has marked a historic milestone in Malaysian healthcare on 6th April 2026 by successfully performing the nation's first laryngology procedure assisted by the Endofix Exo robotic arm. This pioneering integration of robotic assistance in Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (ORL HNS) represents a significant leap forward in optimising the safety and efficacy of delicate airway surgeries.

Traditionally, endoscopic airway procedures require the surgeon to hold the rigid endoscope with one hand while manipulating microsurgical instruments with the other. This one-handed technique fundamentally limits the surgeon's ability to perform complex tissue manipulations

ASSOC. PROF. DR. NORAZILA ABDUL RAHIM performing a laryngology procedure assisted by the Endofix Exo robotic arm.

or manage unexpected complications. Furthermore, manually holding a rigid endoscope for prolonged periods can lead to musculoskeletal fatigue, where even the slightest hand tremor can disrupt the visual field and compromise precision surgery¹⁻².

The introduction of the Endofix Exo, a passive support robotic arm, revolutionizes this traditional approach. The Endofix Exo acts as an indefatigable “third hand” for the surgical procedure. During this procedure at HASA UiTM, the robotic arm was utilised to hold and seamlessly guide the rigid endoscopic camera, providing a level of visual stability previously unattainable through manual control. The most profound advantage of the Endofix Exo in delicate airway surgery is the restoration of the two-handed operative technique.

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By relieving the surgeon of the need to support the

ENDOFIX
Exo
robotic
arm
mounted
to the
operating
table.

camera, they are empowered to actively use both hands to manipulate microsurgical instruments. This dual-hand capability is critical for laryngeal microsurgery within the confined laryngeal space. Furthermore, the robotic arm guarantees a tremor-free field of vision. At the push of a button on the control interface, the surgeon can dynamically manoeuvre the arm into the optimal position. Once the button is released, the rigid endoscope locks instantly into place. This will maintain even the most extreme camera angles for as long as necessary without the risk of image drifting.

Beyond enhanced precision, the robotic arm significantly improves ergonomics in the



operating theatre. Surgeons frequently endure awkward, static postures during conventional endoscopic procedures, leading to severe neck and back strain over time². The Endofix Exo supports the camera equipment from above, allowing the surgeon to maintain a relaxed, neutral posture while operating directly from high-definition monitors.

This reduction in physical fatigue is vital; a comfortable surgeon translates to a safer, more efficient operation. For the patient, these technological advantages are deeply beneficial. The enhanced visualization and mechanical precision facilitated by the robotic arm minimize inadvertent trauma to surrounding tissue in the larynx. This operational efficiency frequently results in shorter surgical times, reduced exposure to general anaesthesia, and a faster, more comfortable postoperative recovery.

The successful utilization of the Endofix Exo at HASA UiTM sets a bold new benchmark for airway procedures in Malaysia. Importantly, the integration of advanced



RESTORATION of the two-handed operative technique in delicate airway surgery significantly improves ergonomics and precision surgery.

technologies such as the Endofix Exo provides clear benefits for both students and the Faculty of Medicine. For trainees, it offers a more stable surgical environment with better visualization, allowing improved skill development and a shorter learning curve in complex airway procedures. It also supports simulation-based training, helping build confidence in a safe setting.

For faculty members, the system enhances teaching quality while reducing physical strain during long procedures. Overall, its adoption strengthens research opportunities,

encourages collaboration. By embracing advanced robotic assistance, UiTM continues to position itself at the absolute forefront of medical innovation, ensuring that patients receive the safest, most precise, and most advanced care available in modern medicine.

References:

1. Michel G, Salunkhe DH, Bordure P, Chablat D. Literature review on endoscopic robotic systems in ear and sinus surgery. *arXiv*. 2021.
2. Joo H, et al. Intraoperative neck angles in endoscopic and microscopic otologic surgery. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2023.

WORLD HEARING WEEK 2026: HEARING CARE FOR ALL CHILDREN

I Nur Annisa Rohaya Md Zakaria
Bhuiyan

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that around 90 million children aged 5-19 years live with hearing loss. However, over 60% of childhood hearing loss is preventable through early detection, vaccination and better ear care services¹. The WHO therefore urges communities to act to protect hearing health from early childhood by integrating systematic

screening and early intervention programs into school and child health initiatives services.

In conjunction with World Hearing Day, the Audiology Unit of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery at Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah (HASA), with support from specialists from HASA and the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM, organised World Hearing Week from 27–30 April 2026 under the theme 'From Communities to Classroom: Hearing Care for All Children'. This program highlighted



PARTICIPANTS of the hearing screening programme for World Hearing Week 2026.



The Audiology Unit of HASA UiTM took part by organising a hearing screening programme throughout the week for HASA staff and other family members as well. A total of 29 participants underwent hearing screening using Otoacoustic Emission & Automated Auditory Brainstem Response at the Audiology Clinic, with 7 participants identified for further evaluation and referred to ENT specialists for follow-up assessment and management.

the integration of hearing care into school health programs & primary

health services to support children in learning, connecting, and thriving at



HEARING screening for adults in Audiology Clinic.



school.

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HEARING screening for newborn in Audiology Clinic.

at the Audiology Clinic, with 7 participants identified for further evaluation and referred to ENT specialists for follow-up assessment and management. Small tokens of appreciation were also distributed to patients attending the clinic throughout the programme period, as a gesture of gratitude to patients and families while promoting awareness of the importance of hearing care and regular screening.

The universal newborn hearing screening programme has been implemented at HASA since 2021 to support early detection of hearing loss and timely intervention.

Programmes such as World Hearing Week are expected to further enhance public awareness of hearing health and encourage the community to seek early hearing assessment and intervention when needed. Through collective efforts from healthcare providers, schools, families, and communities, better hearing care can be achieved for all children and individuals in society.

References:

1. World Hearing Day 2026 [Internet]. World Health Organization; [cited 2026 May 13]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hearing-day/2026>



APPRECIATION for patients and families during World Hearing Week 2026.