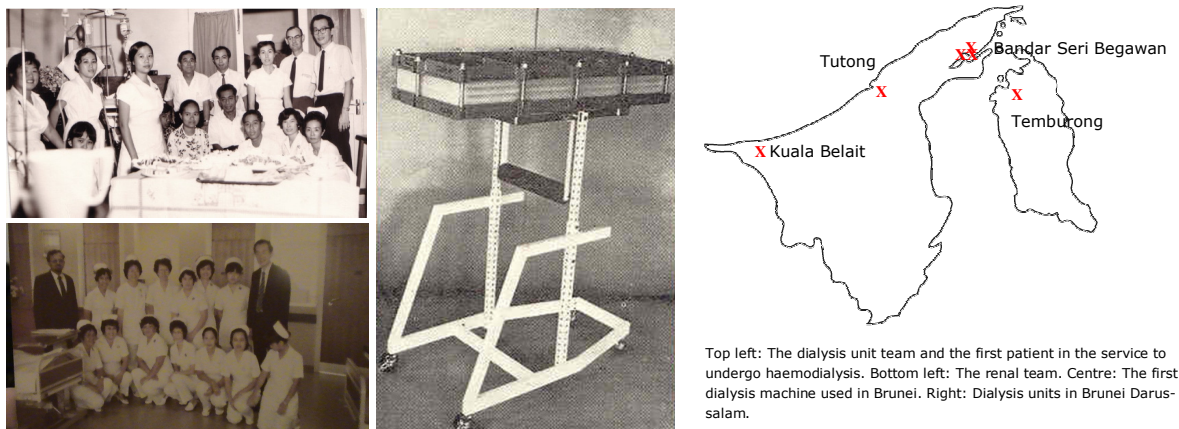


# Healthcare in Brunei Darussalam: The Renal Service (Part II).



Top left: The dialysis unit team and the first patient in the service to undergo haemodialysis. Bottom left: The renal team. Centre: The first dialysis machine used in Brunei. Right: Dialysis units in Brunei Darussalam.

After the Renal Service started in 1968, the number of patients needing renal replacement therapy steadily increased. In 1976, the dialysis unit in Brunei General Hospital was 7-bedded and later expanded to 14 beds by 1981. The service later moved to the RIPAS Dialysis Centre (located on the third floor) in 1983, less than a year before the official opening of the hospital. In 1985, the service introduced an open door policy where patients needing urgent dialysis can be accommodated. Satellite services were started to cope with the increasing demand, and for the convenience of patients from different parts of the country; Sumbiling Satellite unit (1988), Suri Seri Begawan Dialysis centre in the Kuala Belait district (1990), Rimba Dialysis Unit (1998), Kiarong Satellite unit (2001), Temburong Satellite centre (2008) and Tutong Satellite unit (2012).

Apart from increasing the number of dialysis centres, the types of service also expanded. The dialysis machines also changed to the more sophisticated models. Although being used previously, continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) was officially promoted in 1993 as alternative for

haemodialysis. Automated peritoneal dialysis (APD) was introduced in 2008. Apart from renal replacement therapy, the health service also sponsor renal transplantations whenever possible in particular the availability of donors. The first Bruneian patient to under renal transplantation was Miss Ho Beng Geok, carried out in July 1978 in the London Royal Free Hospital, United Kingdom, through arrangements made by Dato Hart and Dato Sherlock Chin. The number of patients undergoing renal transplantations remain small but is steadily increasing. Another major milestone achieved was the successful renal transplantation to be performed in Brunei Darussalam on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013. The surgery was carried out in RIPAS Hospital by a team from Malaysia assisted by local surgeons.

As the population ages and increase, compounded by the increase in non-communicable diseases, the number of patients with kidney failure will increase, needing further expansion and development of the service. The doctors who had been in charge of the renal service include Dato Hart, Dato Sherlock Chin, Dato Shaukat Zinna, and currently Dr Jackson Tan.