

Printing Instructions: Select **File** and then **Print** from your browser's menu

--- Article Information ---

This article was printed from www.theedgedaily.com.

Article's URL: <http://www.theedgedaily.com/cms/content.jsp?id=com.tms.cms.article.Ar>

04-12-2006: Wijaya's medical wing starts to pay off

By Alfean Hardy

[Email us your feedback at fd@bizedge.com](mailto:fd@bizedge.com)

Wijaya Baru Global Bhd's medical and healthcare division is now contributing 10% to 15% to the group's revenue despite having only started operations in September last year.

Its deputy chief executive officer Faizal Abdullah (*pic*) expects the division, via Wijaya International Medical Centre Sdn Bhd, to be an even stronger contributor from next year, having already broken even in the first year.

"We have had a high influx of patients, especially foreign patients, from Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia," he told *FinancialDaily* in an interview.



Wijaya had recently said it expects a tenfold jump in contribution from the new core business to the group's total turnover to 30% within the next three to five years against 3% last year.

"The number of patients we treated in our first year of operations is equivalent to the number of patients treated at another specialist centre over a four-year period," Faizal added.

Faizal expects the centre to do much better as it is well equipped with devices such as a PET CT scanner and a CyberKnife non-invasive surgical tool, which could be the money-spinner.

"Previously, patients needing PET CT services had to go to Singapore. As for the CyberKnife, Singapore will only get its first next year and while it is available in the United States, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Turkey, our services are a lot more affordable," he added.

The company's medical centre Wijaya International Medical Centre (WIMC) in Petaling Jaya will be officially opened this month. The company has invested over RM100 million in the centre.

Wijaya's main core business is in the timber industry, and with its timber concession in Sarawak expiring in four years, it is looking at diversifying its activities. It is also involved in construction.

--- end ---