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'Foie gras' killing thousands yearly: Malaysia

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Singapore: Liver, the heaviest and largest internal organ of our body, that performs over 500 vital functions a day seems to engulf a thousand Malaysians yearly, with diseases such as fatty liver, liver cancer, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and alcoholic liver disease.

At the launch of the 'Healthy Liver Campaign' of the Selayang Hospital, supported by the MayBank Foundation, Health Minister Dr S Subramaniam, said that deaths were due to lack of awareness and that there is a need to educate the public on preventive measures. He added that sedentary life style, too, has contributed to the rise in liver illness.

To date, 63 liver transplants, had been done successfully in the country and there were 98 on the waiting list. The main damper to liver transplants was the lack of donors, and most of the livers pledged to be donated, could not be harvested as the donors, too, were a host of various liver disorders. The government is extending help by increasing the number of nurses and healthcare providers, along with creating awareness through campaigns.