

# Your robot masseuse will see you now

October 12, 2017



Emma the robot at work. Photo: Nanyang Technological University

(HealthDay)—The backaches of the future may have a new remedy—developers say a robot masseuse is now treating patients in Singapore.

Known as Emma (for Expert Manipulative Massage Automation), the robot mimics the human palm and thumb and specializes in back and knee massages, according to its developers.

It is used alongside a doctor and massage therapist and, the developers said, "provides a massage that is described by patients as almost indistinguishable from a professional masseuse."

The device was developed by AiTreat, a technology startup company launched at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Use of the robot began Oct. 9 at the NovaHealth Traditional Chinese Medicine clinic in Singapore.

Emma has sensors that measure tendon and muscle stiffness and can calculate the optimal massage and track a patient's recovery over a course of treatments, according to the developers.

They said the device could offer a low-cost option for [chronic pain management](#).

"By using Emma to do the labor-intensive massages, we can now offer a longer therapy session for [patients](#) while reducing the cost of treatment," AiTreat founder Albert Zhang said in a university news release. "The human therapist is then free to focus on other areas, such as the neck and limb joints, which Emma can't [massage](#) at the moment."

**Explore further: Robot therapist hits the spot with athletes**

**More information:** The U.S. National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health has more on [massage therapy](#).

Featured Last comments Popular



Green tea extract delivers molecular punch to disrupt formation of neurotoxic species  
Oct 11, 2017 0



Menopause triggers metabolic changes in brain that may promote Alzheimer's  
Oct 10, 2017 0



Novel treatment causes cancer to self-destruct without affecting healthy cells  
Oct 09, 2017 1



Human brain recalls visual features in reverse order than it detects them  
Oct 09, 2017 2



Researchers uncover new congenital heart disease genes  
Oct 09, 2017 0

[more »](#)

## Medical Xpress on facebook

Follow

161K people are following Medical Xpress - Medical and Health News. Be the first of your friends.

MedicalXpress.com

Follow