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# This robot masseur will help you get rid of that back and knee pain

**Singapore:  
high. PTI**

A technology startup in Singapore has designed a robot masseur that specialises in back and knee massages. Named Emma, short for 'Expert Manipulative Massage Automation', the robot mimics the function of the human palm and thumb to replicate therapeutic massages such as shiatsu and physiotherapy .

Emma started work on patients this week at the NovaHealth Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) clinic, working alongside its human colleagues -a physician and a massage therapist.

Emma 3.0, the first to go into public service, is more compact than the first prototype unveiled last year.

It uses advanced sensors to measure tendon and muscle stiffness, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cloud based computing to calculate the optimal massage and to track a patient's recovery over a course of treatments.

Emma has been developed by AiTreat, a startup incubated at Nanyang Technological University , Singapore.

The technology aims to address workforce shortages and quality consistency challenges in the healthcare industry , said Albert Zhang, an alumnus of NTU Singapore who led the development of Emma.