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ISSN 2180-3986



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Raising The Bar In Dentistry

Managing Director and Consultant Orthodontist, Implantologist and Laser Dentist, Dato' Dr. How Kim Chuan, talks about the latest technology and specialised services offered at Beverly Wilshire Dental Specialist Centre.



"My goal is always to educate people and by showing them our cases and techniques, we can prove that we have the skills, expertise and facilities to deliver treatments safely and effectively," says Consultant Orthodontist, Implantologist and Laser Dentist, Dato' Dr. How Kim Chuan.

Our teeth and jawbone support 66 to 68 percent of our facial structure but according to Consultant Orthodontist, Implantologist and Specialist in Laser Dentistry, Dato' Dr. How Kim Chuan, most patients are unaware about their importance. "Our teeth and underlying bone are the fundamental foundation of our facial structure. No matter how radiant your skin is, your appearance will never look right if your teeth are severely damaged," says Dr. How, who has over 15 years experience in dentistry.

At Beverly Wilshire Dental Specialist Centre, Dr. How emphasises the improvement of this foundation both functionally and aesthetically by offering various services including orthodontics, periodontics, laser dentistry, oral surgery and aesthetic dentistry.

Joining Forces with Cosmetic Surgeons

At Beverly Wilshire, the medical and dental specialists join forces to devise a top-to-toe aesthetics and health solution for patients.

"The team of plastic surgeons and aesthetic physicians specialise in improving soft tissue (the skin and muscle) defects. They collaborate with our team of dentists and orthodontists who are responsible for treating hard tissue (the teeth and underlying bone)," states Dr. How.

Each week, the doctors gather to consult patients before discussing the cases and

developing treatment plans. Alongside Dr. How, the specialists contribute their expertise in many complex cases, including facial asymmetry and cleft lip and palate. "Our aesthetics specialists perform more than just conventional procedures like filler injections and breast augmentation; they also play an important role alongside the dental team to design and restore beautiful smiles," shares Dr. How.

Modern Dental Technology

According to Dr. How, cheaper costs, doctors' expertise and skills and their meticulous attention to detail and services are luring more international patients to obtain dental treatments in Malaysia. He believes the availability of high-tech equipment and facilities is also an important factor in this rising attraction. "Our investment in the latest dental technology and facilities supports us in performing a very complex, high level of work. We possess the best equipment so we can offer the best for patients," says Dr. How, who is always among the first to acquire the latest technology.

A recent addition to the centre is the Planmeca ProMax Cone Beam 3D, a revolutionary digital system that captures three-dimensional, high quality images of the oral anatomy, face and jawbone. The system uses very low radiation (about one tenth of the normal dose used in conventional X-ray machines) ensuring patients' safety

during diagnosis. "With this system, we can select the areas we want to capture, thereby having more control on radiation. So far, no other imaging system is capable of that," reveals Dr. How.

Effective and Safe Treatments

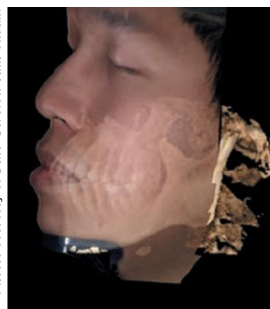
Dr. How always employs the newest and safest techniques to guarantee patients' comfort during treatments. He regularly utilises the Waterlase iPlus from Biolase, the advanced all-tissue dental-laser technology, to perform bloodless gum shaping and recently integrated a new sinus lift technique developed in South Korea.

"Unlike traditional sinus lift procedures, this latest sinus lift kit allows us to lift the fragile sinus membrane safely, leaving patients with minimal swelling and ready for implant placement. This takes 30 minutes to complete, compared with conventional methods which take two hours," notes Dr. How, who also employs an atraumatic extraction system from Germany which preserves the gum and socket during tooth extraction, without causing pain and swelling to patients.

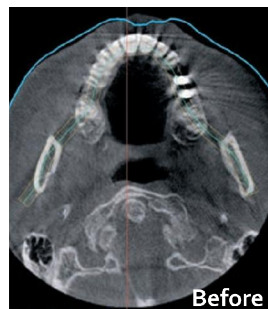
Additionally, the centre's operating theatre is equipped with an autofocus camera that records procedures as they are being done, which is convenient for educational purposes. Thanks to this equipment, 30 orthodontists recently watched Dr. How performing surgery via a live feed on a screen in a separate room.

"My goal is always to educate people and by showing them our cases and techniques, we can prove that we have the skills, expertise and facilities to deliver treatments safely and effectively," comments Dr. How.

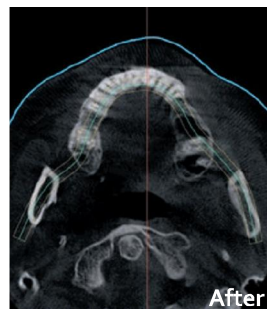
Photos courtesy of Dato' Dr. How Kim Chuan.



3D face simulation via the Planmeca ProMax Cone Beam 3D.



Before sinus lift.



View after the sinus lift as seen using the Planmeca ProMax Cone Beam 3D.

Smile Design

Personalising unique smiles, for a unique you.

Smile Design at Beverly Wilshire Dental Specialist Centre concentrates on offering both surgical and non-surgical solutions to create new smiles for patients. Whether you are male or female, European or Asian, the dental team is committed to customising smiles according to each unique individual.

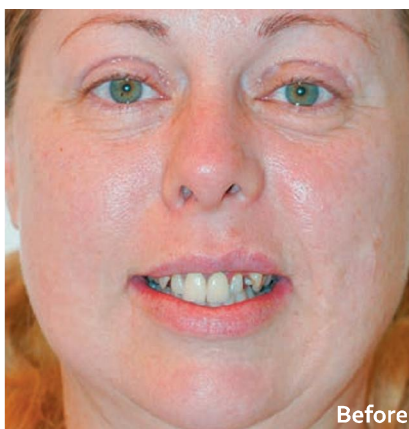
According to Dr. How, women's teeth are sharper, smaller and more defined than men's, whose teeth are usually rounder and broader. Women also display more of their upper incisors (the first four front teeth) than men. He takes these aspects into account when designing teeth based on the patient's gender. Dr. How says patients can also customise their teeth to complement the shape of their body.

"We design patients' teeth in such a way so they are proportional to the patient's face and body. Tiny-sized teeth on skinny females will make them look smaller, so we make the teeth slightly broader to balance their appearance," he elaborates, saying that he also considers the patient's eyes, nose, cheeks, chin and neck when creating a smile. "We are meticulously detailed in our work to tailor to a patients' appearance."

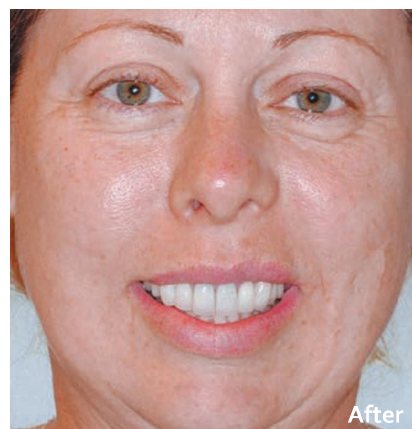
Furthermore, Dr. How reveals that many European patients come to the centre requesting to look like Asians. "Europeans generally have teeth that are too straight and upright. They have flat lips and always display dark buccal corridors (the dark space between the corners of the mouth and upper teeth). Asian teeth are usually tautly angled and they have more contoured profiles. We try to take these elements and implement them in European patients by modifying their incisor display, reshaping their teeth, or repositioning their jaws if necessary," shares Dr. How.

For patients with uneven gums, Dr. How often sculpts the gum line to enhance their smiles using the Waterlase iPlus, the all-tissue dental laser. Unlike a knife, the laser cuts in smooth curves without causing any bleeding. "Cutting gums with a knife damages a lot of cells and causes massive bleeding, making it difficult to see during treatment. With the laser, the procedure is bloodless and results are more beautiful and predictable. The cost is cheaper too, as it shortens the treatment time," notes Dr. How.

For patients who are undergoing smile



Patient before the full mouth rehabilitation by Dato' Dr. How Kim Chuan.



Patient after the full-mouth rehabilitation. She was very satisfied with her results and told Dr. How he has changed her life for the better.



Close-up of patient's teeth before the full-mouth rehabilitation.



Close-up of patient after the full-mouth rehabilitation.

reconstruction, Dr. How provides temporary teeth, made from composite materials which look like real teeth, that patients can try out for a week. Patients can request changes.

Dr. How combines patients' wishes with what he thinks is ideal and unique for them, further refining the temporary teeth. This process continues until patients are fully satisfied with the results and are committed to a final look.

"We take pictures of patients before, during and after treatment each time they come here. By the end of the final treatment, 200 to 300 photos have been taken and given to patients for free, so they can appreciate the step-by-step progress towards getting their new smiles," says Dr. How.

Glowing Patient Testimonials

Many patients have written glowing testimonials of Dr. How's work, expressing their gratitude for the quality and personalised service they experienced. One patient from Australia, whose teeth were severely damaged, even declared that Dr. How has changed her life for the better.

"When this patient first came to the centre, she was filled with fear and refused to go into the treatment room. My staff and I patiently encouraged her and explained

the process to her before she consented to proceed," recalls Dr. How. "The treatment was very complex, even involving general anaesthesia, but we successfully managed to give her full-mouth rehabilitation."

With such dedicated services, patients are sure to leave the centre with much more than just a smile. "I feel a great sense of achievement and satisfaction when I see patients happy with their beautiful smiles. As a doctor, I feel like I've made a contribution to their lives," comments Dr. How.

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