



WHY YOUR BEAUTICIAN IS NOT & SHOULD NOT BE YOUR DENTIST

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The issue of fake dentists has been around for many years. The Ministry of Health has received a growing number of reports of fake dentists made by disgruntled customers—from 54 in 2017 to 130 in 2019!

WHAT QUALIFIES ONE TO BE A 'REAL DENTIST'?

Professor Dr Seow Liang Lin shares that a proper and qualified dentist is registered with the Malaysian Dental Council (MDC) and holds a valid Annual Practising Certificate (APC) or Temporary Practising Certificate (TPC) to practice dentistry in Malaysia.

Anyone that claims to be a dentist but does not meet the above two criteria is considered illegal.

She adds that most of these fake dentists 'learned' their skills from watching YouTube videos. Their unsuspecting clients often end up as test subjects for them to practice on!

YOUR DENTIST MAY NOT BE THE REAL DEAL IF THEY...

- Do not have their Annual Practising Certificate (APC) displayed at the clinic, or the displayed APC has expired
- Set up stalls at but not limited to morning markets and pasar malams to offer dental treatments such as on-the-spot tooth replacements
- Offer aesthetic dental works such as bleaching and veneers from a beauty parlour
- Promote house-to-house services on social media and/or operate from makeshift clinics in hotel rooms



PROFESSOR DR SEOW LIANG LIN

Dean of IMU School of Dentistry
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THESE FAKE DENTISTS OFFER TO REPLACE MY MISSING TEETH IN A CHEAPER & MORE CONVENIENT FASHION... WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

"The fake dentist usually just connects denture teeth to natural teeth using wires or something similar," explains Prof Seow. "Their customers feel satisfied because they believe that they don't have to get dentures made."

What these customers don't realize that **these 'new' teeth don't actually work** and will **cause damage to the adjacent natural teeth and gums**. They can cause **natural teeth to decay** or **the gums to become inflamed** when food is forcefully stuck or impacted between the 'new' teeth.

WHY WOULD MY FAVOURITE BEAUTICIAN DO ME WRONG?

Prof Seow shares that it is common for customers to maintain a certain rapport with their beauticians, who offer them tooth aesthetic treatments as part of a beauty package.

Tooth Bleaching

Bleaching is a procedure to whiten teeth, often by using a cream or gel that contains chemicals such as hydrogen peroxide or carbamide peroxide.

"The cream or gel is applied to the surfaces of the teeth after scaling and polishing," Prof Seow elaborates. "This

procedure is commonly done at the dentist's clinic."

It is possible to do this at home, but she explains that you need to be first assessed by your dentist, who will offer instructions on how to use a tray loaded with gel at home for a few hours every day, for 1 week to 3 weeks. The whole process will be monitored by your dentist.

At a beauty parlour, you risk having your teeth being treated with **substandard bleaching gels**, which can **cause harm to both your teeth and gums**.

There is also **no proper assessment** to ensure that your teeth are suitable for bleaching in the first place.

"You might be paying money for a treatment that is not suitable and therefore will not have any results for you!" Prof Seow warns.

Tooth Veneers

Veneers are also a popular treatment offered at beauty parlours.

Now, Prof Seow reveals that veneers are used in several circumstances:

- When your tooth discolouration can't be bleached
- When your teeth are a little bit crooked
- When you don't want to wear braces
- When your teeth are very worn down

"Legitimate **indirect veneers** are **custom-made** in dental labs, while **direct veneers** need a **skilled hand** to shape and polish in order to look good," she further elaborates.

Trusting a beautician to provide this service often leads to **ill-fitting veneers** that cause **swollen and diseased gums!**

Bracers

Braces to fix mild and simple cases of misaligned teeth can be managed by dentists who have upskilled themselves by attending short courses.

For complex cases, you will need to see an orthodontist.

It's highly unlikely that your beautician has the knowledge and skill to assess and treat your tooth misalignment.

DON'T TAKE THE RISK!

Not going to a proper dentist can cause irreversible damage to the teeth and gums. There is also the issue of questionable hygiene and the lack of proper equipment.