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## FIRSTWORDS

# What it means to be well-informed

I remembered my RCT suspect case. That was almost equivalent to losing your nerves while lost in a cold, dark cave, with no imminent light. Well, this is probably a very dramatic illustration but when the pain was pummeling me every other second from one side of my mouth, all I could whimper was: Help!

Several dentist friends whom I described my condition to, had nailed down my pain to a root canal problem. Not only was the pain burdensome, but also thinking about the financial costs of the RCT and how it could implicate my work in terms of getting time off from my busy schedule to treat the problem. I was desperate – for a cost-friendly and time-friendly solution.

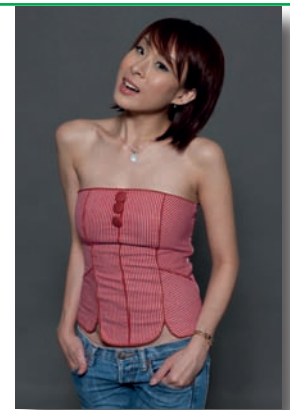
When I finally sat down in the dentist's chair and did all the thorough tests and check-up, it was confirmed: it wasn't a RCT. Relief swamped over me like a mad tsunami. It was actually a nerve inside my tooth that, for some reason, was a little tense and throbbing. But there wasn't any abscess, as suspected, and there wasn't any swelling. The dentist attributed the nerve problem as probably a stress trigger effect.

As a matter of fact, my RCT suspect case led me to implore what it means to make a well-informed choice. Often, people are too busy to keep making repeat visits to the dentist or to keep having second opinions by going from dentist to dentist. And not to mention, the costs involved: patients do need to know that what they're paying for is what they REALLY deserve. For example, is there really a point in convincing patients to spend a total of almost SGD\$8,000 (approximate) just for an implant, when really, there're other ways of saving the tooth? And let's also not forget the social and emotional stress that accompany dental problems as well.

This issue, we take a closer look at having an informed consent for implants; and explore some revolutionary dental techniques that can save more time, and hopefully, reduce some costs. We also went up close and personal with the team behind Q & M Dental Group. In analysing the lip-closing force and the daily activities for lip functions, we've also studied the use of methods and materials in this issue.

With IDEM Singapore 2010 just a few peeks away, eager anticipation and interest awaits the arrival of IDEM Singapore 2010 this April. Already, the region's key dental meeting and exhibition is gaining full throttle on their registration and has expanded their world-class scientific program. A positive sign in such trying times.

See you at IDEM Singapore!



Geraldine Sim  
Assistant Editor

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