

LOVE AT FIRST IMPRESSION

Dr. Cindy Ooi's road to Suction Denture success.

Since the beginning of her career in 2013, Dr. Cindy has met many edentulous patients who struggle with shifting dentures. They complained about their inability to chew due to ill-fitting prosthesis, forcing them to swallow their food instead. In early 2014, an edentulous patient named Madam Chuah, who suffers from anaemia and malnutrition was referred by her physician to get a pair of denture in order to aid her in chewing and improve her digestion.

Ever since that encounter, Dr. Cindy developed a special interest in denture fabrication, as she ascertained that oral health rehabilitation can improve a person's life and it is a key indicator to overall health, wellbeing and quality of life. Due to the fact that denture fabrication is remarkably technique sensitive and time-consuming, Dr. Cindy started to be extra meticulous in every step throughout the process, yet she found it challenging to deliver well-fitted denture to her patients consistently. The mismatch between patient's expectation and denture result pushes Dr. Cindy to thrive even

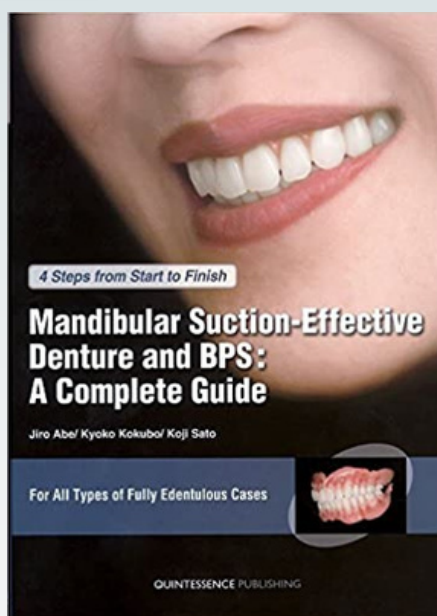


Figure 1: Mandibular Suction-Effective Denture and BPS: A Complete Guide by Dr. Jiro Abe.

further. She reached out for latest updates on denture making, but to her disappointment, there was very little advancement in clinical techniques in recent years.

During 2017, Dr. Cindy's practice took a turn for the better when she came across Dr. Jiro Abe's articles on Suction Denture. She continued her search for Dr. Abe's impression techniques and was amazed to find that suction could be achieved in lower dentures. Without hesitation, she placed an order

for Dr. Abe's textbook "Mandibular Suction-Effective Denture and BPS: A Complete Guide", and attempted to replicate the techniques. However, her countless attempts show little success.

In that very same year, Dr. Cindy had an opportunity to meet Dr. Abe in person during his keynote lecture in Singapore. He left 4 words along with his autograph on her textbook - "熟慮乃達" which bares the meaning of "perseverance and consistency in practicing are the road to success". With his encouragement, she is determined to



Figure 2: First encounter with Dr. Jiro Abe (right) and dental prosthetist Arnie Jabour (left) during SEMCD seminar in Singapore.



Figure 3: Receiving certificates from Dr. Jiro Abe during private hands-on workshop in Tokyo.



Figure 4: DT Kyoko Kokubo (left) and Dr. Cindy Ooi (right).

revise the basics and refine her skills in Suction Denture fabrication, starting from taking the perfect primary impression.

2 years of self-learning and practicing later, Dr. Cindy decided that it is time to pay Dr. Abe another visit and learn from the master himself. She landed in Tokyo on 19 July 2019, and was overwhelmed by Dr. Abe's warm hospitality. This trip was the answer to all of her doubts as she has witnessed Suction Denture making in the flesh, and how well it can restore one's masticatory function along with their aesthetic.

After returning from Tokyo, she resumed her Suction Denture journey and made the commitment to become the best denture care provider she could possibly be. With lots of practice, Dr. Cindy had become highly efficient in taking good impressions and creating good dental models. Just as things were looking up, her progression was yet again interrupted due to laboratory support inadequacy. The



Figure 5: Learning about custom tray fabrication from DT Kyoko Kokubo with Canadian dentist Mr. Eugene Shmitsman.



Figure 6: Successful retrieval of suction effective mandibular functional impression for a challenging case.



Figure 7: Discussion with DT Shimoda Tsubasa during Ooi Dental's first collaboration with Takumi Lab.



Figure 8: Dr. Yamazaki visiting Ooi Dental in 2018.



Figure 9: With DT Shimoda Tsubasa from Takumi Lab.



Figure 10 - 12: Group pictures with Dr. Yamazaki, DT Shimoda Tsubasa and the Ooi Dental team.

number of dental technicians who are well-trained in Biofunctional Prosthetic System (BPS®) is also rather limited in Malaysia.

Thankfully, the enormous challenge was overcome when she met DT Shimoda Tsubasa, a BPS® trained Japanese dental technician from Takumi Lab who is experienced in making Suction Denture. With his help and advice from great mentors like Dr. Fumiaki Yamazaki and DT Kyoko Kokubo, Dr. Cindy's first suction effective BPS denture was finally issued successfully.

From examination to denture issue, Dr. Abe's SEMCD technique is systematic, predictable and reproducible. It has completely altered Dr. Cindy's perspective towards complete denture making. Presently, she feels excitement instead of fear whenever she sees an edentulous patient with severely resorbed arch.

As a devoted SEMCD student, Dr. Cindy is keen to carry on Dr. Abe's desire to provide the best fit for every denture wearer. She strongly encourages all denture care providers to expand their knowledge, and learn more about SEMCD and BPS®, as she is certain that this technique will bring great impact and new insights to the world of removable prosthodontics, while giving patients like Madam Chuah an opportunity to live their life to the fullest.

“Together we can bring benefits to the edentulous citizens of Malaysia. Join me to revise the basics and master the revolutionary SEMCD technique. It all started with the first impression.”

- DR. CINDY OOI

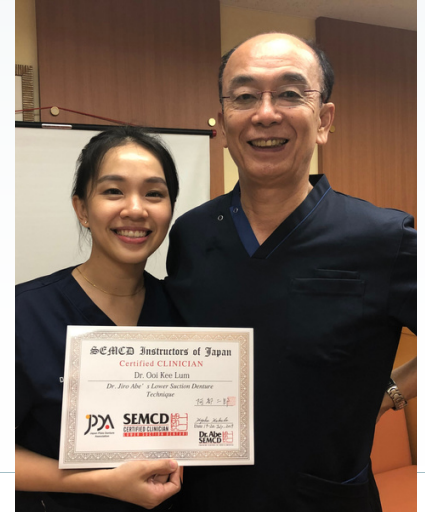


Figure 13: Commemorating the moment with Dr. Jiro Abe.

DR. CINDY OOI

Certified SEMCD Clinical Instructor

By having vast experience in various fields of dentistry within both public and private health sector gives Dr. Cindy Ooi the upper hand in giving her patients the absolute best. As a certified SEMCD Clinical Instructor, she makes it a mission to provide the best fit to denture wearers, while sharing SEMCD knowledge to like-minded denture care providers.

A devoted mother to two lovely girls, Dr. Cindy Ooi loves collecting motivational quotes and reading books on self-enrichment.

