



Dr. David Kao

Dr. David Kao obtained his Dental Surgery degree from the University of Otago and upon graduation, he entered straight into private practice. Over the years, Dr. Kao has developed special interests in microscope enhanced treatments particularly in the fields of aesthetic dentistry and endodontics. He recognises the impact of enhanced vision in dentistry and is committed to redefining precision in modern dentistry.

Dr. Kao has completed numerous postgraduate training in advanced endodontics, composite resin artistry, minimally invasive ceramic restorations, oral surgery and facial aesthetics. He is an active member of ITI (International Team for Implantology) gIDE and NZDA (New Zealand Dental Association).

Supporting a passion for dental perfection

How Dr Kao moved his practice forward with the Morita Soaric chair from Henry Schein

When Dr Kao was young, a love of sculpture made him think he would enjoy a career as either an artist or an architect. As it turns out, dentistry performed under microscope was the path for him – he sees it as a fulfilling mix of both artistry and the detailed discipline he enjoyed about architecture.

His own practice, Boutique Dental, opened in Christchurch last year and is a testament to Dr Kao's search for perfection.

"We built the whole building from scratch so that I could have everything exactly where I want," he says. "I wanted the rooms to be a very specific size, and the environment to be artsy so I'd be in the mood to do this kind of work. It means there are no compromises."

"No compromises" is a mantra that underpins Dr Kao's work. It's a huge part of why he works almost exclusively under a microscope, using equipment from Henry Schein.

"I get a kick out of achieving what seemed impossible," says Dr Kao.

Comfort and technology

As far as Dr Kao is concerned, true excellence in dental equipment has to go beyond advanced technology – it

must consider the human side too. That's an enormous part of why he chose the Morita Soaric. Dr Kao explains that it allows for a high level of comfort during his unusually long appointments. An appointment for even a simple composite restoration routinely takes over an hour in Dr Kao's practice.

"Ergonomics are very important. Throughout the years I've used other chairs which haven't always been an enjoyable experience, you lose patience," says Dr Kao. "To stay comfortable during a mundane task, you have to enjoy using the equipment."

Dr Kao says the Morita Soaric's high quality technology produces less vibration, and its equipment feels better in the hand. The perfect balance of the instruments also makes them easier to control.

"That better balance lets you produce far more detailed work," says Dr Kao.



Under the scope

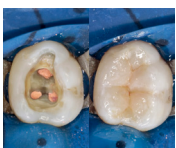
Dr Kao went the extra mile to find a chair that could meet his exacting standards, even travelling to Japan to visit the Morita factory. He wanted to see the workmanship behind the chair first hand. Needless to say, he was impressed:

“It’s bespoke. The customisability of it is far better than anything else. Everything is handmade – it’s the Rolls-Royce of chairs.”

While most younger dentists are now trained to use the 2-3 times magnification of dental loupes, Dr Kao’s scope gives him 20-30 times magnification. That, he says, is the key to his incredibly detailed work and his 10-year guarantee on restorations.

“Every step has to be perfect for something to last,” says Dr Kao. “If one part isn’t done right, you can’t expect your restoration to last as long.

“Under magnification you can be 100 times more precise. Without it, you can do something that’s acceptable, but we can achieve something that’s far beyond that standard.”



A microscope built right into his chair was therefore a must-have – the Morita Soaric was the only one of a couple on the market that could be customised to allow for that. On top of the integrated microscope, Dr Kao also had his curing light built into his chair – on the doctor’s side.

“I know where the composite is and which angle to cure it on,” he explains.

Perfection through technology

Using his new equipment from Henry Schein, Dr Kao can offer his patients restorative work that both looks better and increases the integrity of the tooth’s structure. He points to veneers as an example. Under the microscope, he can layer microscopic features that make a tooth look natural.

“It’s the layering that makes the tooth interact with the light, especially under sunlight, and that’s what gives the tooth natural characteristics,” he explains. “I recognise my own work – it just looks aesthetically different.”

“It’s about precision – I can achieve precision of fit to less than 30 microns. The veneers just fit better, so you’re less likely to end up with stained margins,” he says.

The precision he can achieve on his ergonomic chair and under the microscope means the work lasts.

Fabulous sales and support

Choosing equipment from Henry Schein was made easier thanks to Dr Kao’s Equipment Sales Specialist, Edward Harrison, who he thought was “fabulous.”

“He’s a very genuine person,” Dr Kao explains. “Rather than just pushing sales and looking to maximise profit, he really tries to understand my practice and make suggestions based on what’s most beneficial for me. I trust him a lot.”

The training and after-sales support he received was also excellent.

“I’ve been studying the Morita chair for years, so I didn’t need much training, but they still offered really good support,” he

says. “It’s tremendous – they took their time to ensure I knew how to operate everything.”

The future in technology

With the technology he needs at his fingertips, Dr Kao’s fledgling practice is going from strength to strength – other dentists have begun referring patients to him for more difficult cases, especially when visualisation is a problem.

“You can really only treat what your eyes can see – without proper vision it’s merely guesswork,” says Dr Kao.

His equipment from Henry Schein takes that guesswork away – and he’d like to help other dentists move their practice forward too.

“I’m planning on eventually running courses for other dentists, teaching them how to take time and produce higher quality work under microscopes,” he says.

He sees the latest technology as a key part of pushing dentistry into new realms.

“If you want to push the limits, you have to have help from the latest equipment,” says Dr Kao.

