

# READY, SET, SMILE

**What inspired you to undertake dental work?**

My teeth were very crooked and because of them, I couldn't bite or speak properly. I wasn't happy with myself and therefore had very low self-esteem. Midway through my treatment with Dr Ho, I met my husband. After he proposed, he became my inspiration to have the dental work completed before our wedding.

**What dental solutions did you choose?**

As my case was quite complex, my treatment was a detailed process which took four years to complete. I had operations on six impacted teeth and two wisdom teeth. I then had braces and wore a plate at the same time. After six to eight months, the plate was removed and I continued to wear braces. I now have a permanent retainer on both my top and bottom sets of teeth.

**What was involved in your treatment process?**

I made my first appointment four years ago when I was 26. I met with Dr Ho, he looked at my teeth and we talked about what treatment options I had. He said I would have a few operations. At first, I was very nervous and told him I didn't want to have any operations done but Dr Ho assured me that everything would be okay. I met with a specialist to have eight teeth removed and then Dr Ho began his treatment. The main problem with my teeth was there was not enough room, so the majority of the work involved making more space within my mouth. To do this, I wore a plate and braces at the same time. The plate was removed after six to eight months and now I have permanent retainers to ensure everything stays straight and perfect.

**Did you feel safe and comfortable?**

Everything was fantastic and nothing went wrong during my treatment. Not only did Dr Ho do an amazing job but he always made me feel comfortable. We would sit down and go over each procedure, why it was beneficial and how it would work. He used pictures and diagrams to help me understand exactly what was going to happen and no matter what, always kept me calm.

**What were people's reactions after the treatment was completed?**

Everybody was amazed, especially my husband. He told me I was beautiful and it made me feel so special and totally renewed my confidence. Before I began the treatment with Dr Ho, I was embarrassed of myself. I never smiled and I didn't like to talk. Dr Ho gave me a whole new confidence. He taught me how to smile properly and encouraged me to practise in the mirror, so that my wedding day photographs would be perfect.

Recent bride Patricia Russo didn't always have a Hollywood smile. But with Dr Gareth Ho's help, she achieved one just in time to walk the aisle.

**How much did your treatment cost?**

\$12,000 total (including operations, treatment, cleaning).

**Are you still receiving treatment?**

My treatment is complete, but I still attend regular check-ups. This is to ensure that everything is still in place and that my teeth haven't moved. Dr Ho always wants everything to be perfect.

**Would you recommend others to have dental work?**

Without a doubt. Since my experience, my sister has now begun treatment and currently has braces. It's different with Dr Ho. You forget that you're even at the dentist. He makes you feel at home, he tells jokes and talks to you about your life. He's just a lovely, friendly man.



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