

CHAIR PRODUCTIVITY – Office Safety

Classic Surgery Design

Ten years ago when Dr Darren Chai was building and designing his first surgery, he went looking for a compact chair with a small footprint for his purpose-built surgeries – which were on average only 3m wide x 3.4m in length.

“When I first viewed Fimet equipment, I was captured by the compact size and stylish smooth lines of the system, I was immediately impressed,” said Dr Chai.

“In addition, the simple positioning of the doctor’s console unit captured my imagination for a more productive and safer working room environment, which was exactly what I was after.”

The unique rotating swivel arm mechanism allows the doctor’s unit to be simply moved over to the assistance side and out of the traffic flow area. This unique unit positioning results in rapid cleaning and changeover of instruments as the assistant does not have to leave their side of the chair. In addition, patient entry and exit to the chair is equipment obstruction free and safety concerns in relation to tripping over handpiece cables and handpiece stick have been virtually eliminated.

“I now own six Fimet units, the features of the equipment have certainly lived up to my expectations, and as a result, have made significant contributions to my office workflow, safety and business productivity,” Dr Chai said.

“All this, at a competitive purchase price and flawless 6 years of exceptional product service and support. Fimet equipment has passed the test of time and when I need another unit, it will be Fimet, naturally!”

As the years passed, all the Fimet dental units proved to be high performing, long lasting, with low maintenance and excellent service and support.

Too good to be true?

It all sounds too good to be true? Not at all, because after 6 years he still has his original chair and it is still giving sterling service.

“The units still look modern and I particularly like the whip arm system. I can easily swing the handpiece console over to the assistant’s side and cleaning procedures can commence immediately while I close up with the patient still in the chair,” said Dr Chai.

Dr Chai’s first modest investment 10 years ago accounted his exploratory entry into practice. Since then his Acorn dental centre in Perth’s suburban Armadale has been augmented by the Cannington located Avadent Centre.



Long term Fimet case studies now abound and are well-documented for the range of dental chairs manufactured by Finland’s famous global company with a Perth-based Australian subsidiary which has been involved in designing, developing and marketing high-quality dental equipment for more than two decades.

The Fimet Australian track record goes back 16 years with an exceptional history, zeroing in on outstanding patient comfort, safety and office productivity in the working room environment. The success of the Perth operation is highlighted by the plethora of Australian practitioners’ plaudits for the cost effectiveness and reliability their Fimet chair decisions have delivered.

The two surgeries today are a hive of activity. From the modest beginnings in 2001 when Dr Chai worked solo with just two assistants, the two surgeries today are staffed by five full time dentists, nine full time dental assistants and several part time casuals. Three surgery rooms are ready for everyday operation although Dr Chai says usually two are in use at any time to enable the dentists there to be rostered on for various sessions with sufficient breaks.

On an average day, each dentist at the two centres sees between 15 and 20 patients a day, bringing the total for the two dentists always on duty to 40-50 patients. The work is varied, ranging from preventative and restorative dentistry, implants and some orthodontics, endodontics and cosmetic dentistry such as zoom whitening. All the assistants at the two

6 year old F1A Dental Chair

Compact Dental Unit
– patient entry is clear and equipment obstruction “free”

Easy to clean – non staining surfaces

Light weight hoses

Modern Ageless Design

Avadent Dental Care

Dr Darren Chai (Australia)

Published in
Australasian Dentist
Volume 26
Sept/Oct,
2008 Edition



Compact 6 year old F1-LE Dental Unit. Compact unit positioning allows for rapid changeover of instruments between patients and patient entry and exist is equipment obstruction free.



Compact unit for the smallest of office room sizes, stain free rounded and easy to clean surfaces with unique and simple unit arm rotation mechanism allowing unit to be easily positioned on assistance side for rapid handpiece change and cleaning between patient changeover. Patient entry and exist is clear and equipment obstruction free from hanging hoses (accidental tripping) and equipment handpiece stick within the traffic area.



Dr Kevin Yeow & Dr Darren Chai (right) and staff from Ava Dent Dental Care

surgeries are trained in assisting, sterilizing and reception work with two also acting as practice managers.

They all confirm that the versatility and microprocessor controls of the Fimet chairs make for a smooth and productive working environment for both left and right handed practitioners.

“We are constantly encouraged by the enthusiasm our dentists and assistants express about the various features of the treatment units and the extent to which they facilitate effortless and efficient day-to-day operation”, he commented.

In particular emphasis was made on the compactness of the Fimet units, with specific reference to the drill unit which he explained, swings back over the patient to the nurse’s side so she can do the clean up without having to walk around the chair.

He went on to point out that often conventional units position the instrument tray in the traffic area where the patient enters and exits; this means the assistant needs to move to this side to start instrument changeover and clean up after each patient has left the chair. Fimet’s design is based on an ‘over-the-patient’ system which means the unit can be moved to the assistant’s side. The resultant efficiency becomes evident when the changeover and clean up can begin straight away and requires a minimum of floor space.

Like Dr Chai, most members of the dental profession will aver that an intimate understanding of the needs of dental professionals (the firm’s head designer is married to a dentist!) combined with an entrenched focus on innovative technologies has constantly resulted in Fimet’s world-class product standards. In particular has been the emphasis on the need for constantly improved Ergonomics brought about by a world wide trends which is seeing more dentists working without a nurse.

Other floor space saving attributes is demonstrated by the F1 range of Fimet chairs. For example, the F1-S (with chair, unit, light and cuspidor), F1-M chair/light combination, and F1-City (chair, unit and light) are all floor-based and are controllable by a wireless joystick on the base. Their small footprint (98cm x 175cm) includes a below-knee leg rest section angled downwards that requires less floor space without reducing available leg length. Various length adjustments include chair extension to 225cm, backrest adjustment from 40cm to 50cm, and headrest range from 24cm to 57cm.

Many of Fimet’s models feature a type of drill hose known as the European or continental style. These eschew traditional hanging hoses by enabling the instrument tubing to be held horizontally with the instruments resting on a pad.

A chair that has proved ‘flawless’ over 6 years is a tremendous cost-effective investment. To stumble upon it is extraordinary good fortune, to purchase another six Fimet chairs is recognition of exceptionally good value. ♦