



For acne scars and pigmentation, the FPL treatment, applied every other week for two months (it's a 10 minute treatment) creates startling results.

Dr. Niwat trained in London, Tel Aviv, Boston, Los Angeles and New Jersey and is an expert in not only cosmetic dermatology and laser surgery, but also sexually transmitted diseases.

He has written extensively and, since 1984, has published five books.

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Dentistry

Some things in life you just want to avoid: walking the dog on a cold, rainy night; changing diapers at 3:00 in the morning; taking out the garbage (anytime); negotiating with the IRS; shoveling snow in a blizzard; having your mother-in-law along on vacation; a root canal.

The dentist.

Well, here's a surprise.

Dentistry in the Land of Smiles is a refined and sophisticated art form, performed by physicians and surgeons acknowledged for their manual dexterity. Thailand has a heritage of renowned artisans of nimble craft and handiwork. It extends to the dental profession.

I and a dozen colleagues and friends (and family) have experienced a myriad of dental services at Samitivej, Bumrungrad and Bangkok Pattaya Hospitals: laser whitening, root canal, implants, wisdom tooth extraction and maintenance (cavities and cleanings) in a five-star resort atmosphere with the benchmark of service. And smiles.

And value. Extraordinary.

My son rolled into the Big Mango with a toothache. In 45 minutes at Samitivej, his teeth were cleaned and one cavity filled. All for US \$57—with no

waiting and attentive care.

I had a root canal with a complication. Dr. Virut Artha-vun has the hands of pianist and the touch of an All-Star point guard. Schooled in Thailand, he has been practicing for nearly 25 years in endodontics. I napped in



the chair while he was operating.

Dr. Virat (above left) called a surgeon who came to my chair, diagnosed and delicately performed the removal of one root, preventing a painful, time-consuming (and costly in the US) extraction and implant. The cost: US \$500 with the crown.

Painless, believe it or not.

Dr. Rud Sooparb trained for three years in San Diego then at the University of Pittsburgh, and is a Diplomate,

American Board of Oral Implantology. He returned home to Bangkok's Samitivej Hospital in 2001. "In Thailand we are much more hands-on. I admire the system in the US, but, frankly, the dentists are often understaffed, over-insured and must sent patients out of the office with collateral problems. We do it all here. And the setting is holistic."

Indeed it is.

Dr. Rud is the best oral operative this well-traveled, exacting and demanding mouth has experienced.

Visit on Saturday morning and a string quartet is playing Shubert in the lounge.

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