

PROPHYLACTIC ANTIBIOTIC PROTECTION

The possibility of infection in your artificial joint may exist in the following situations:

- ANY dental procedure
- ANY bacterial infection (urinary tract, skin etc.)
- Colonoscopy
- Cystoscopy
- Genitourinary instrumentation
- Prostate/bladder or any urology surgery
- Kidney surgery
- Cardiac catheterization
- Barium Enema
- Endoscopy

Antibiotic protection should be given by the treating physician, our office, or your dentist for any of these procedures. The following protocol is generally recommended for most dental procedures, but your physician or dentist should use whatever antibiotic protects you from the bacteria to which you are most likely to be exposed.

Recommended Prophylactic Antibiotic Protocol:

Amoxicillin 3 grams one hour BEFORE procedure, then 2 gram six hours AFTER the procedure.

If allergic to penicillin:

Erythromycin 1 gram one hour BEFORE procedure, then 1 gram six hours AFTER procedure.

OR

Clindamycin 600 mg one hour BEFORE procedure, then 600 mg six hours AFTER procedure.

* * No ELECTIVE dental work or cleaning for 3 months following surgery * *

* * These are lifelong precautions * *

* * Once your dentist knows what antibiotic has been prescribed the first time by our office, your dentist can prescribe future doses * *

Preventing Infection in Your Joint at the Dentist's Office

Developing an infection in and around a total hip or knee replacement is one of the most catastrophic complications that can occur. If you suspect you might have an infection, it is important to seek treatment early.

During a dental procedure, it is possible for bacteria from the mouth, teeth or gums to travel through the bloodstream and settle in an artificial joint. The use of an antibiotic pill prior to dental work has been thought to lower this risk. Orthopedic surgeons have historically recommended the routine use of antibiotics prior to dental work due to the catastrophic effects of a prosthetic joint infection and the relative safety of a single dose of oral antibiotics.

In 2013, The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and The American Dental Association worked together to create guidelines for this situation. The workgroup reviewed the available published data to try and synthesize recommendations for patients and practitioners. Unfortunately, there is not a large amount of quality data, but they issued three findings:

1. The practitioner might consider discontinuing the practice of routinely prescribing prophylactic antibiotics for patients with hip and knee prosthetic joint implants undergoing dental procedures.
2. We are unable to recommend for or against the use of topical oral antimicrobials in patients with prosthetic joint implants or other orthopaedic implants undergoing dental procedures.
3. In the absence of reliable evidence linking poor oral health to prosthetic joint infection, it is the opinion of the work group that patients with prosthetic joint implants or other orthopaedic implants maintain appropriate oral hygiene.

Many factors should be considered when you are making this decision, such as:

- The type of procedure being performed – routine cleaning vs. more invasive work
- Your health status – patients with compromised immune systems are at greater risk
- The presence or absence of an active infection in the mouth
- The recommendations of your surgeon and dentist

With the lack of a definitive answer on this question, we recommend the use of dental prophylaxis for our patients.

References:

1. Watters, W III, Rethman, MP, Hanson, NB, et al: AAOS-ADA Clinical Practice Guideline Summary: Prevention of Orthopaedic Implant Infection in Patients Undergoing Dental Procedures. Journal of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. March 2013; 21:180-189.; doi:10.5435/JAAOS-21-03-180
2. Appropriate Use Criteria – For the Management of Patients with Orthopaedic Implants Undergoing Dental Procedures; http://www.orthoguidelines.org/go/auc/default.cfm?auc_id=224995&actionxm=Terms