

Orthopaedic and Spine Institute
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Antibiotic Prophylaxis Use in Dental Patients with Total Joint Replacements

These are the specific recommendations we give for dentists to use on our patients who have had joint replacement surgery.

As you may know, the joint panel of experts from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American Dental Association (ADA) has issued a position statement regarding antibiotic prophylaxis and the use of antibiotic prophylaxis for dental patients with total joint replacement(s).

The advisory board based the recommendations on literature reviews, although there was no specific prospective study regarding the use of antibiotic prophylaxis that we are aware of. Their statement proposed prophylaxis to be recommended if:

- the patient is immuno-compromised
- the dental procedure is likely to have a higher incidence of bacteremia such as routine cleaning, tooth extraction, root canal or dental implants.
- the higher risk dental procedures are performed within two years of the total joint replacement.
- the patient has had a previous prosthetic joint infection.

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A recent study published in Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research showing an association between total knee arthroplasty infections and dental procedures underscores these recommendations. However, it also points out that infections occur in patients who are not immuno-compromised.

Because of the gravity of a hematogenous periprosthetic infection, our group has come to the following recommendation:

ALL patients having had total joint replacement who undergo any dental procedure should receive antibiotic prophylaxis for the following antibiotic prophylaxis regimen:

- 1. Patients not allergic to penicillin: Cephalexin or amoxicillin, 2 gm. orally one hour prior to dental procedure.***
- 2. Patients not allergic to penicillin and unable to take oral medications: Cefazolin 1 gm.; or ampicillin, 2 gm. IM/IV one hour prior to the procedure.***
- 3. Patients allergic to penicillin: Clindamycin, 600 mg. orally one hour prior to dental procedure.***
- 4. Patients allergic to penicillin and unable to take oral medications: Clindamycin, 600 mg. IM/IV one hour prior to the procedure.***

If your office has further questions or comments, we would be happy to discuss this with you at any time. Again, thank you for your efforts in regard to our mutual patients.