

Joint Replacement, Dental Care, and Antibiotics

For the first two years after a joint replacement, you will need antibiotics before all high-risk dental procedures. The bacteria commonly found in your mouth may travel through the bloodstream and settle in your artificial joint.

Ask your dentist about taking antibiotics before all dental procedures with a high risk of bleeding or that may produce high levels of bacteria in your blood. These include:

- Having your teeth cleaned
- Having a tooth pulled
- All periodontal work
- Dental implant placement and replantation of teeth that were knocked out
- Some root canal work
- Some local anesthetic shots

After two years, only high-risk patients may need antibiotics before high-risk procedures. You may still be at high risk if you have:

- Had an infection in your new joint
- Inflammatory arthritis, type 1 diabetes, or hemophilia
- A suppressed immune system
- Not been eating a well balanced diet
- Ever had or now have cancer

Your dentist and your orthopedic surgeon will decide what antibiotic is best for you.

Date of joint surgery _____

Orthopedic surgeon _____

Phone number _____

Adapted from “Your Joint Replacement, Dental Procedures, and Antibiotics”, by the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

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