



The Region's Most Preferred.

Dental Work Guidelines for Joint Replacement Surgery:
Hip, Knee, Shoulder, Elbow, Ankle

Dental procedures (including routine cleanings) in patients with joint replacement remains a topic for debate when considering the timing of dental work and the use of antibiotics. There is a small risk of bacteria from the mouth entering the blood stream after a dental procedure or cleaning, which could cause a joint infection. Infection of a joint replacement is a serious issue and can require one or more surgeries and intravenous (IV) antibiotics to kill the bacteria.

Use of antibiotics before dental work is not without risk. These risks include antibiotic resistance (the antibiotic no longer works), allergic reaction, and stomach issues. In an effort to balance these rare, but serious complications surrounding dental work and use of antibiotics, Rebound joint replacement surgeons recommend the following:

- Routine dental work or cleanings should be completed **no later** than 2 weeks **prior** to a joint replacement surgery.
- Routine dental work or cleanings should not be scheduled until 3 months **after** the joint replacement surgery. *The exception to this is if you have had trauma to a tooth or have concerns for an active dental infection. If so, proceed with seeing your dentist, take antibiotics prior to your exam, and notify our office if there is a confirmed dental infection.
- For 2 years after a joint replacement surgery, preventative antibiotics are recommended for all patients prior to dental procedures or cleaning. Your dentist can prescribe the following for you or you can contact our office at 360-254-6161 to request a prescription prior to your dental appointment.
 - **No medication allergies**-Cephalexin 2 gram by oral route one hour prior to exam or procedure.
 - **Allergy to Cephalexin or Penicillin**-Clindamycin 600 mg by oral route one hour prior to exam or procedure.
- If you are at an increased risk for an infection (immunocompromised) because of your medical history or medications that you are taking, **lifetime** preventative antibiotics are recommended for dental procedures or cleanings.

Some examples include:

- Prior infection with joint replacement

- Poorly controlled diabetes (HgbA1C >7)
- Rheumatoid or other inflammatory arthritis
- HIV/AIDS
- Dialysis patients
- Bone marrow transplant recipient
- Receiving current cancer treatment
- Taking steroid medication-(few examples-dexamethasone, methylprednisolone, prednisone).

We recognize that there are different opinions on the use of antibiotics prior to dental procedures. If you prefer to use antibiotics prior to dental work beyond the two years recommended here, we (or your dentist) could prescribe them for you.