

Dental Work Guidelines for Joint Replacement Surgery:

Hip, Knee, Shoulder, Elbow, Ankle

Dental procedures (including routine cleanings) in patients with joint replacement remain 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 bloodstream after a dental procedure or cleaning, which could cause a joint infection. Infection of a hip, knee, ankle, or shoulder 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. To balance these rare, but serious complications surrounding dental work and use of antibiotics, Rebound joint replacement surgeons recommend the following:

- Dental procedures using manual hand instruments (deep scaling): no later than **1 week** prior to your joint replacement surgery.
- Routine oral hygiene procedures (regular dental cleanings and exams without probing): no later than **1 day** prior to joint replacement surgery.
- Oral surgery (dental implants, dental extractions, treatment of a dental infection): allow at least **3 weeks** prior to your joint surgery.
- **Routine dental work or cleaning should not be scheduled until 3 months after** joint replacement surgery. *Exception:* if you have had trauma to a tooth or 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 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: Doxycycline 100 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 (e.g., dexamethasone, methylprednisolone, prednisone)