

Dental Work After a Joint Replacement.

In June 2002, the American Dental Association invited the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons to help develop The Total Joint Replacement Guide. The following is a summary of the guide:

Representatives from the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons developed the following recommendations for people with joint replacements who are planning to have some dental work done. Because there is little data on this topic, these recommendations are guidelines only. [We] will always work together with your orthopaedic surgeon to determine an appropriate course of treatment for you.

You **should get preventive antibiotics** before dental procedures if:

- You have an inflammatory type of arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus erythematosus.
- Your immune system has been weakened by disease, drugs, or radiation.
- You have insulin-dependent (Type I) diabetes.
- You had a joint replacement less than two years ago.
- You've had previous infections in your artificial joint.
- You are undernourished or malnourished.
- You have hemophilia.

Should a change be recommended to your existing premedication regimen, this memo will be signed by you and will serve as informed consent. It is your responsibility to confirm any recommendations with your physician and/or orthopaedic surgeon.

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please feel free to contact the ADA Division of Science via e-mail or by calling 312-440-2878.

http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/fact/thr_report.cfm&topcategory=JointReplacement&Thread_ID=364