



Joint Replacement

Prophylactic antibiotics for life

Any dental work, cellulites, cystoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, proctoscopy, and related procedures will require prophylactic antibiotics.

Now that you have a joint replacement, it is very important for you to take a dose of antibiotics before any procedure or event that may introduce bacteria into your bloodstream. Taking the appropriate antibiotics will help prevent the occurrence of an infection in your joint.

You should not have any elective dental work or procedures involving the respiratory, digestive or urinary tract within 3 months following your joint replacement. Obviously emergency procedures or procedures to treat an infection are permitted.

Dental Work

We recommend a dose of antibiotics before any type of dental work, to include routine dental cleanings. We recommend this “pre-treatment” as a lifelong precaution for patients with joint replacements.

- If you are not allergic to penicillin, you should take 2 grams of cephalexin, cephradine or amoxicillin by mouth 1 hour prior to any dental procedure.
- If you are allergic to penicillin, you should take 600 milligrams of clindamycin 1 hour prior to any dental procedure.

Your dentist or primary care provider should be able to prescribe these antibiotics for you. If your dentist has any questions, (s)he should feel free to contact a member of the Arthritis Team.

Questions?

Your questions are important to us. So please call your doctor or health care provider if you have any questions or concerns. UWMC Clinic staff is also available to help at any time.

Eastside Specialty Center

Monday through Friday,
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 1700 116th Ave. N.E.
 Bellevue, WA 98004
 Phone: 425-646-7777
 Fax: 206-520-2249

After 5:00pm and on weekends and holidays, call the UWMC Emergency Department: 206 598-4000

Or, call the operator at 206 598-6190 and ask to page the Orthopedic Resident on call.

Non Dental Procedures

Given the potential adverse outcomes and cost of treating an infected joint replacement, the American Academy of Orthopaedics Surgeons recommends that clinicians consider antibiotic prophylaxis for all total joint replacement patients prior to any invasive procedure that may cause bacteria to enter the bloodstream. These are their 2009 prophylactic antibiotic recommendations:

Procedure	Antimicrobial Agent	Dose	Timing	Duration	
Dental	Cephalexin, cephadrine, amoxicillin	2 gm PO	1 hour prior to procedure	Discontinued within 24 hours of the procedure. For most outpatient/office-based procedures a single pre-procedure dose is sufficient.	
Ophthalmic	Gentamicin, tobramycin, ciprofloxacin, gatifloxacin, levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, ofloxacin, or meomycin-gramicidin-polymyxin B cefazolin	Multiple drops topically over 2 to 24 hours or 100 mg subconjunctivally	Consult ophthalmologist or pharmacist for dosing regimen		
Orthopaedic†	Cefazolin/Cefuroxime OR Vancomycin	1-2 g IV 1.5 g IV 1 g IV	Begin dose 60 minutes prior to procedure		
Vascular	Cefazolin OR Vancomycin	1-2 g IV 1 g IV	Begin dose 60 minutes prior to procedure		
Gastrointestinal					
Esophageal, gastroduodenal	Cefazolin	1-2 g IV	Begin dose 60 minutes prior to procedure		
Biliary tract	Cefazolin	1-2 g IV			
Colorectal	Neomycin + erythromycin base (oral)	1 g	Dependent on time of procedure, consult with GI physician and/or pharmacist		
	OR metronidazole (oral)	1 g			
Head and neck	Clindamycin + gentamicin OR cefazolin	600-900 mg IV 1.5 mg/kg IV 1-2 g IV	Begin dose 60 minutes prior to procedure		
Obstetric and gynecological	Cefoxitin, cefazolin Ampicillin/sulbactam	1-2 g IV 3 g IV	Begin dose 60 minutes prior to procedure		
Genitourinary	Ciprofloxacin	500 mg PO or 400 mg IV	1 hour prior to procedure Begin dose 60 minutes prior to procedure		

If your surgeon, primary care provider or dentist has any questions regarding prophylactic antibiotics, please have them contact the Arthritis Team at the University of Washington Medical Center.

Antibiotics for Life

Note – It is often common practice for health care providers to recommend antibiotics prior to high risk procedures for only two years following your surgery. The UWMC Arthritis Team recommends antibiotics prior to high risk procedures for as long as you have your prosthesis.