

PREHN DENTAL OFFICE

RECENT CHANGES IN PRE-MEDICATION GUIDELINES FOR DENTAL PATIENTS WITH HEART MURMURS AND JOINT PROSTHESIS (ARTIFICIAL HIPS, KNEES, ETC)

New standards have been adopted by the dental profession in conjunction with the American Heart Association regarding protocol for antibiotic coverage for dental procedures. Dental procedures are basically put into two categories. Pre-medication for heart murmur, heart disease and artificial joints and those that no longer require pre-medication.

Patients with documented cases of heart murmurs and have been directed by their physician, need to have pre-medication for select dental procedures. Listed below in Table 1 are the dental procedures that require pre-medication on a routine basis. Table 2 lists dental procedures that do not require routine pre-medication such as: routine fillings, crowns, bridges, root canals, removable dentures, partials, impressions and the like. In the past we routinely pre-medicated for these types of procedures, but now the protocol has changed.

The other major change is that patients who received artificial joints need to pre-medicate for only the first two years after the joint has been placed and then only if you have immunosuppressed tendencies (which is the tendency for infection) or you have a problem, rejection, or infection in the joint after placement. If you are an insulin-dependent Type I Diabetic, is also an indication for pre-medication, past the two years after placement.

The current antibiotic of choice is Amoxicillin, 4, 500 milligram, tablets (2 grams) one hour before the dental procedure. This has been changed from the years past when Penicillin was given prior and also after dental procedures for 3-4 days.

If you are allergic to Penicillin and/or Amoxicillin, then it is recommended to take Erythromycin or Clindamycin as a secondary choice.

Please feel free to discuss this with Dr. Prehn and/or your personal physician. Your protocol for when pre-medication should be utilized will depend on your medical history and the dental procedure that will be performed.

TABLE 1 DENTAL PROCEDURES THAT REQUIRE PRE-MEDICATION

- Dental Extractions
- Periodontal procedures including surgery, subgingival placement or antibiotic filers/strips and root planning, probing, recall maintenance.
- Dental implant placement and reimplantation of avulsed teeth
- Endodontic (root canal) instrumentation or surgery only beyond the apex
- Initial placement of orthodontic bands but not brackets
- Intraligamentary local anesthetic injections
- Prophylactic cleaning of teeth or implants where bleeding is anticipated

TABLE 2 DENTAL PROCEDURES THAT NO LONGER REQUIRE PRE-MEDICATION

- Restorative dentistry (operative and crown & bridge) with/without retraction cord
- Local anesthetic injections (nonintraaligamentary)
- Intracanal endodontic treatment; post placement and buildup
- Placement of rubber dam
- Postoperative suture removal
- Placement of removable prosthodontic/orthodontic appliances
- Taking of oral impressions
- Fluoride treatments
- Taking of oral radiographs
- Orthodontic appliance adjustment
- Clinical judgment may indicate antibiotic use in selected circumstances that may create significant bleeding