

## **Premedication Guidelines (updated April 2009)**

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

In the Spring of 2007, the American Heart Association updated the requirements for pre-medication for patients having certain dental treatment.

Patients with cardiac conditions associated with the highest risk of adverse outcome from infective endocarditis such as patients with artificial heart valves, history of endocarditis or certain serious congenital heart conditions and heart transplant patients who develop a problem with a heart valve, should be pre-medicated before dental procedures.

If you have a history of a heart murmur or documented case of a heart murmur, it is no longer necessary to pre-medicate as in the past.

If you have received artificial joints (hips, shoulders or knees) you need to premedicate indefinitely after the joint has been placed there is reasonable data to support the belief that bacteriemia from oral procedures may result in total joint infections even after several years.

The current antibiotic of choice is Amoxicillin, four 500 milligram tablets (2 grams) one hour before the dental procedure. This has been changed from past years 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.

New standards have been adopted by the dental profession in conjunction with the American Heart Association regarding protocol for antibiotic coverage for dental procedures. If you require pre-medication, it is only for certain dental procedures. Dental procedures are basically put into two categories. Please see list below.

#### **Dental Procedures Requiring Pre-Medication:**

**\*We will NOT do these procedures unless you are premedicated\***

- Dental Extractions
- Periodontal procedures including surgery, subgingival placement of antibiotic fibers/strips and root planing, 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
- Restorative dentistry (extensive fillings and crown & bridge) with/without retraction cord

#### **Dental Procedures No Longer Requiring Pre-Medication even with the serious cardiac conditions and hip, shoulder or knee prosthesis:**

- Restorative dentistry one surface occlusal fillings
- Local anesthetic injections (nonintra-ligamentary)
- 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

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW YOUR PHYSICIAN AND/OR DENTISTS GUIDELINES.**