

Updated Information Regarding Joint Replacements

Dr. Fabry & Dr. Keller have recommended that you should take antibiotics for the first two years after your joint surgery. This is a change from previous recommendations that have been used over the last decade. You may hear conflicting recommendations from your orthopedic surgeon. We are confident there is no additional risk of infection of your joint by not taking antibiotics before dental work, however there are risks associated with overprescribing antibiotics. We are committed to providing you the best oral health care to enhance your general health using the latest scientific research to guide our decisions. If you prefer to continue taking antibiotics prior to dental work after two years, we recommend having your orthopedic surgeon write your prescription.

Current Guideline, January 2015, Journal of the American Dental Association

- **In general, for patients with prosthetic joint implants, prophylactic antibiotics are not recommended prior to dental procedures to prevent prosthetic joint infection.**

Evidence to Support Current Guidelines

- **Dental procedures are not associated with prosthetic joint infections**
- **Antibiotics taken before dental procedures do not prevent prosthetic joint infections**
- **The vast majority of prosthetic joint infections are caused by *Staph*; bacteria commonly found on the skin, within 3 months of surgery. Not *Strep* which is found in the mouth.**
- **Similar amounts of bacteria enter the bloodstream from normal daily activities such as brushing teeth and chewing food as from dental procedures such as cleaning and extraction.**
- **Overuse of antibiotics are associated with resistant strains of bacteria making antibiotics less effective to fight life threatening infections**
- **Antibiotic use may be associated with serious infections of the bowel known as *C. Diff* infections causing an estimated 500,000 infections and 29,000 deaths yearly.**

Reviewed With Patient

Recommendations:

Patient _____

Date _____

Provider _____

Date _____