

## JOINT REPLACEMENT

### PROPHYLACTIC ANTIBIOTICS FOR LIFE

*Any dental work, 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 Procedures

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, cephadrine 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 our office.

#### Non-Dental Procedures

If you are going to have a procedure in the respiratory, digestive or urinary tract, you will likely need a dose of antibiotics before the procedure to protect your artificial joint. Make sure that the surgeon doing your procedure is aware that you have a joint replacement and that you need a dose of antibiotics before the procedure.

If your surgeon, primary care provider or dentist has any questions regarding prophylactic antibiotics, please have them contact our office.

### Antibiotics for Life

**Note** – It is often common for health care providers to recommend antibiotics prior to high-risk procedures for only two years following surgery. However, we recommend antibiotics prior to high-risk procedures for as long as you have your joint replacement.

---