DENTAL WORK / PROCEDURES AFTER JOINT REPLACEMENT

Representatives from the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons developed the following recommendations for people with joint replacements who are planning to undergo dental procedures. It is possible, in some situations, for bacteria in the mouth, teeth, or gums to travel through the bloodstream and settle in an artificial joint. In an attempt to prevent this occurrence these parties have created the below guidelines, these are guidelines only. Because your dentist knows the extent of any dental work you may require that he/she is the best person to determine whether a course of antibiotic treatment is appropriate for you. If antibiotics are necessary, your dentist should write the prescription for you.

When do you need preventive antibiotics?
Due to the fact that you have an artificial joint, your risk of contracting a blood-borne infection is higher than normal. Therefore, despite previous guidelines, we feel antibiotics are indicated for all dental procedures.

The current absolute indications for antibiotic prophylaxis include all those with:
- An inflammatory type of arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus erythematosis
- An immune system has been weakened by disease, drugs, or radiation
- Insulin-dependent (Type I) diabetes
- A joint replacement less than two years ago
- A previous infection in your artificial joint
- You are undernourished or malnourished
- You have Hemophilia

What procedures require preventive antibiotics?
You should get preventive antibiotics for the following dental procedures:
- Dental extractions
- Periodontal (gum disease) procedures
- Dental implant placement and reimplantation
- Endodontic (root canal) instrumentation or surgery
- Initial placement of orthodontic bands (not brackets)
- Injection of a local anesthetic into the gums near the jaw
- Regular cleaning of teeth or procedure where bleeding is anticipated

What kinds of antibiotics are suggested?
The following single-dose preventive antibiotics are suggested:
- If you can take oral medications and are not allergic to penicillin, 2 grams of Amoxicillin, Cephalexin, or Cephradine should be taken one hour before the procedure
- If you are allergic to penicillin, 600 milligrams of Clindamycin should be taken orally or administered by injection one hour before the procedure

If you are unsure whether your procedure requires antibiotic prophylaxis, please contact our office.