

AUSTIN BONE AND JOINT CLINIC

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN

TOTAL JOINT REPLACEMENT
ARTHROSCOPY AND KNEE SURGERY
HAND AND SHOULDER RECONSTRUCTION
PEDIATRIC ORTHOPEDICS
FOOT SURGERY

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ANTIBIOTICS AFTER A TOTAL JOINT PROSTHESIS

There is evidence that a total joint prosthesis can become infected by bacteria in the blood stream at any time, even years after your surgery. In order to protect your new joint, it is important that if any surgery is contemplated on an infected area or a potentially infected area in your body, an antibiotic may need to be administered prior to the surgery. Prior to any treatments, you should notify the doctor that you have a total joint prosthesis.

Any dental work, including routine cleaning; genital/urinary procedures, including cystoscopy; gastrointestinal procedures, including gastroscopy; and pulmonary procedures, including bronchoscopy, should be considered as possible sources of infection.

You should get preventative antibiotics before surgery procedures if:

- You have an inflammatory type of arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus erythematosus.
- Your immune system has been weakened by disease, drugs, or radiation.
- You have insulin dependent (type I) diabetes mellitus.
- You had a joint replacement less than two years ago.
- You have had previous infections in your artificial joint.
- You are undernourished or malnourished.
- You have hemophilia.

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Your doctor or dentist will prescribe an antibiotic. However, if you have a question regarding antibiotics, we suggest:

- If you can take oral medications and are not allergic to Penicillin, 2 grams of Amoxicillin, Cephalexin, or Cephadrine should be taken one hour before the procedure.
- If you cannot take oral medications and are not allergic to penicillin, 2 grams of Ampicillin or 1 gram of Cefazolin should be administered by injection one hour before the procedure.
- If you are allergic to penicillin, 600 mg of Clindamycin should be taken orally or administered by injection one hour before the procedure.

These guidelines are designed to help doctors and dentists make decisions about preventative antibiotics for their patients with total joint prostheses. It is not standard of care or a substitute for the practitioner's clinical judgment because it is impossible to make recommendations that would cover every situation. Practitioners must exercise their own clinical judgment in determining whether or not preventative antibiotics are appropriate.