

Endodontic Spotlight

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Introduction

Happy New Year! I hope that 2015 is off to a great start for everyone. In our first issue of volume 4 we highlight the new ADA guidelines for artificial joints recently published in the January 2015 issue of JADA. Although this isn't purely about endodontics, I think everyone reading this will find it very relevant. I've copied the summary box from the article for quick reference and abstracted the rest of the paper as usual. There have been so many changes to the recommendations in the last decade that it is really nice to have this very definitive statement from the ADA. I hope you find it useful.

Management of patients with prosthetic joints undergoing dental procedures

Clinical Recommendation:

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

For patients with a history of complications associated with their joint replacement surgery who are undergoing dental procedures that include gingival manipulation or mucosal incision, prophylactic antibiotics should only be considered after consultation with the patient and orthopedic surgeon.* To assess a patient's medical status, a complete health history is always recommended when making final decisions regarding the need for antibiotic prophylaxis.

Clinical Reasoning for the Recommendation:

- There is evidence that dental procedures are not associated with prosthetic joint implant infections.
- There is evidence that antibiotics provided before oral care do not prevent prosthetic joint implant infections.
- There are potential harms of antibiotics including risk for anaphylaxis, antibiotic resistance, and opportunistic infections like *Clostridium difficile*.
- The benefits of antibiotic prophylaxis may not exceed the harms for most patients.
- The individual patient's circumstances and preferences should be considered when deciding whether to prescribe prophylactic antibiotics prior to dental procedures.

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ADA. Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry™

* In cases where antibiotics are deemed necessary, it is most appropriate that the orthopedic surgeon recommend the appropriate antibiotic regimen and when reasonable write the prescription.

Sollecito TP, Abt E, Lockhart PB, Truelove E, Paumier TM, Tracy SL, Tampi M, Beltran-Aguilar ED, Frantsve-Hawley J. The use of prophylactic antibiotics prior to dental procedures in patients with prosthetic joints. J Amer Dent Assoc 2015;146:11-16.

The American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs convened a panel of experts to study and provide evidenced based clinical practice guidelines for the use of prophylactic antibiotics before dental procedures in patients that have a prosthetic joint. In their search of the

literature they found four relevant articles, all of which did not support the use of antibiotics, and so they determined with moderate certainty that there is no association between dental procedures and prosthetic joint infections. Thus their recommendation is that “In general, for patients with prosthetic joint implants, prophylactic antibiotics are not recommended prior to dental procedures to prevent prosthetic joint infections.” Of course, you should remember that these are just guidelines and you should use your professional judgment. The summary figure of the recommendations copied from the articles is on the previous page. *Summary: According to the ADA, prophylactic antibiotics are no longer recommended for patients with prosthetic joints.*

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