

**Central Vermont Medical Center**

ORTHOPEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE

**Update on Dental Prophylaxis for Joint Replacement Patients**

Following, are the latest set of guidelines on dental care for patients who have received a total joint replacement at Central Vermont Medical Center. *Based on revised recommendations from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, we are asking joint replacement patients to take antibiotics prior to ANY dental procedure for the first two years after their procedure. For those patients who have diabetes or are otherwise immunosuppressed, we are continuing to recommend antibiotics for dental procedures for the life of their prosthetic.*

**Guidelines as of June 2013:**

- Antibiotic prophylaxis should be considered for patients who have had a total joint replacement and are having a dental procedure.
- Routine dental cleaning should take place no later than one week prior to the patient's joint replacement surgery.
- Patients should refrain from any non-emergent dental procedures, including cleaning, for six months after their surgery.
- For those requiring antibiotic prophylaxis, the dosing recommendations are as follows:
  - Cephalexin, Cephadrine, or Amoxicillin: two grams orally one hour prior to dental procedure
  - If unable to take oral medications: Cefazolin one gram or Ampicillin two grams IM/IV one hour prior to procedure

Notify your physician or dentist for possible antibiotic treatment prior to these procedures:

Any Dental Procedure

Liver Biopsy

Prostate & Bladder Surgery

Tonsillectomy

Barium Enema

Genitourinary Instrumentation

Any Infection

Bronchoscopy

Sigmoidoscopy

Kidney Surgery

Vaginal Exams & GYN Surgery

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Gail Beaudin, RN of Green Mountain Orthopaedic Surgery at 802-229-2663.

Thank you for the assistance with the care of our patients.