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Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Prosthetic Joint Replacements

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It is recommended that patients with prosthetic joint replacements take prophylactic antibiotics prior to dental procedures or other invasive procedures that may cause bacteria to enter the bloodstream. It is recommended that this be followed as a lifetime precaution after joint replacement surgery.

As of February 2009, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) has issued an information statement with the above recommendation for patients with orthopaedic prosthetic joint replacements.

The AAOS information statement provides a discussion of the risks and benefits of prophylactic antibiotics prior to invasive procedures for patients who have prosthetic joint replacements. Nineteen references are cited in this statement. This statement is available at the following link: <http://www.aaos.org/about/papers/advistmt/1033.asp>. A copy of this statement is also available as a PDF file posted on the Kennedy-White Orthopaedic Center web site. It is also available as a hard copy paper print in the office at Kennedy-White Orthopaedic Center. The AAOS information statement includes a table with recommendations for specific antibiotics and doses for various invasive procedures.

For patients with prosthetic joint replacements, prior to undergoing dental procedures, **Amoxicillin 2 grams or Cephalexin 2 grams by mouth one hour prior to the procedure** is recommended. For patients who are **allergic to penicillin, the alternative is Cleocin 600 mg** one hour before dental procedure.