

Need For Antibiotics Following Your Total Joint Replacement Surgery

Often the subject arises of whether or not patients require antibiotics following total joint replacement when various procedures are done (such as teeth cleaning). I have reviewed the literature and adopted the following recommendations:

1. We do not recommend dental work until at least three months after your joint replacement surgery.
2. Antibiotics are necessary for all dental work including teeth cleaning, root canals, gum surgery and tooth extraction. My recommendation is Amoxicillin 2 grams by mouth, one hour prior to the procedure. If you are allergic to Penicillin, then you should take Clindamycin, 600 mg. by mouth, one hour prior to the procedure.
3. Any routine surgery should be covered with antibiotics. This would include abdominal surgery, chest surgery, extremity surgery and plastic surgery, etc. Again, I recommend Amoxicillin 2 grams by mouth, one hour prior to the procedure, and the Clindamycin as above for those patients who are allergic to Penicillin. Your surgeon may choose to use another antibiotic and this may be at their discretion.
4. For routine cystoscopy (such as looking inside the bladder with a special tube), I recommend the Amoxicillin or Clindamycin as above.
5. I do not feel that you need antibiotics for routine cold and flu symptoms, but if you are diagnosed as having bronchitis or pneumonia, these should be covered with antibiotics appropriately determined by your medical doctor.