

Artificial Joints and Dental Procedures

Are Antibiotics Needed?

What is an artificial joint?

An artificial joint, sometimes called a prosthesis, is a medical device made of metal, plastic, or ceramic that is used to replace a damaged joint. Commonly placed artificial joints include hips, knees, or shoulders.

Am I at an increased risk of infection from a dental procedure if I have an artificial joint?

No. The American Dental Association states that there is no evidence to suggest that patients who have an artificial joint are at an increased risk of infection following a dental procedure.

Do I need to take an antibiotic prior to a dental procedure if I have an artificial joint?



No. Patients with an artificial joint do not require an antibiotic prior to a dental procedure. Taking antibiotics when they are not needed can lead to bacteria that become resistant to antibiotics.

What are some things I can do if I need a dental procedure and I have an artificial joint?

- ✓ **Discuss the use of antibiotics with your dentist.** If prescribed, ask if antibiotics are absolutely necessary.
- ✓ **Talk with your doctor if you have questions about whether or not you are in a high-risk patient group.** Some patients with underlying medical conditions may require antibiotics prior to a dental procedure.
- ✓ **Take antibiotics responsibly and exactly as prescribed.** Taking antibiotics when they are not necessary can lead to negative side effects.
- ✓ **Watch for signs of infection.** These could be redness, swelling, and fever.

