Dental Prophylaxis for Total Joint Replacement Patients

Although controversial, I recommend that total joint replacement patients receive antibiotic prophylaxis indefinitely for any dental procedure if they are immunocompromised, immunosuppressed, have insulin-dependent (type 1) diabetes, have had previous prosthetic joint infections, are malnourished, or have hemophilia. I also recommend antibiotic prophylaxis for any dental procedure for patients who are within the first 2 years following joint replacement surgery.

1. Prophylactic cleaning of teeth or implants with which serious bleeding is anticipated.
2. Intraligamentary local anesthetic injections
3. Dental extractions
4. Periodontal procedures including surgery, subgingival placement of antibiotic fibers/strips, scaling and root planning, probing, recall maintenance
5. Sental implant placement and re-implantation of avulsed teeth
6. Endodontic (root canal) instrumentation of surgery only beyond the apex initial placement of orthodontic bands but not brackets.

In patients who are not allergic to penicillin, we recommend:
1. Keflex: 500mg 1 hour prior to dental procedure and 500mg 6 hours after first dose
   OR
2. Amoxicillin: 2 grams 1 hours prior to dental procedure

In patients who are allergic to penicillin, we recommend:
1. Clindamycin: 600mg 1 hour prior to dental procedure
   OR
2. Erythromycin: 500mg 1 hour prior to dental procedure

Prophylaxis is no longer indicated for restoration of decayed teeth or routine cleaning where bleeding is not anticipated for patients who have had total joint replacements longer than two years and do not have any condition listed in paragraph one.