

ANTIBIOTICS BEFORE DENTAL PROCEDURES



How has using antibiotics before dental procedures changed?



TAKING ANTIBIOTICS

prior to dental procedures used to be recommended more often for

people with heart conditions or after joint replacement surgery.

RESEARCH

has now shown that antibiotic use before dental procedures was more harmful than helpful for many of these people.



UPDATED GUIDELINES

now recommend that fewer groups of patients require

an antibiotic before a dental procedure.

Do I need to take antibiotics before dental procedures?

You **may** need to take antibiotics before a dental procedure if you have one of the following **HEART** conditions:

1

An artificial heart valve or other artificial material in your heart

2

Unrepaired congenital heart disease conditions

3

A history of a heart infection called infective endocarditis



Antibiotic use is not needed before all dental procedures. Your **DENTIST** will tell you if the procedure requires you to take your antibiotics beforehand.



You may need to take antibiotics before a dental procedure if you have had serious complications with knee or hip replacement surgery. Ask your **ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON** if you need antibiotics before dental procedures. Then be sure to talk with your **DENTIST**.



Ask your **CARDIOLOGIST** or primary care doctor if you need an antibiotic before a dental procedure. Then be sure to talk with your **DENTIST**.

What harm could come from taking antibiotics?

When antibiotics are used too often, bacteria can become resistant to them and the antibiotics no longer work.



When antibiotics are used inappropriately, they can cause unnecessary side effects.

What else can I do?

If you have been using an antibiotic before a dental procedure, discuss it with your medical and dental providers. Since recommendations have changed, you may no longer need it.

The most effective way to prevent infections is to maintain good oral health. Make sure to:

1. Get professional cleanings every six months or as recommended by your dentist
2. Brush twice daily
3. Floss daily

