

## ANTIBIOTIC INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR TOTAL JOINT REPLACEMENTS

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Since you have an artificial joint in place you must take care to protect it from infection. Before having dental work or certain medical procedures performed, it will be necessary for you to take an antibiotic. The antibiotic will help prevent bacteria from getting into the bloodstream and thus into the joint.

Keflex is the antibiotic commonly given before and after dental work. You may take Erythromycin if you are allergic to Keflex. Or, you may take another antibiotic as recommended by your doctor,

You may discontinue premedicating before routine dental care 2 years post-op.

For routine dental work, such as teeth cleaning and fillings, you should take:

1. Four Keflex (500 mg) one hour prior to your procedure.

or if Erythromycin is taken:

2. Four Erythromycin (500mg) one hour prior to your procedure.

This is all that is necessary for routine dental work.

For more extensive dental work, such as extractions or root canals, you will **ALWAYS NEED TO PREMEDICATE.**

You should take:

1. One Keflex (500 mg) one hour prior to your dental appointment.
2. One Keflex (500 mg) every six hours after your procedure, for a total of three days.

If Erythromycin is taken

1. Two Erythromycin (500 mg) every six hours after the procedure for a total of three days.
2. One Erythromycin (500mg) every six hours after the procedure for a total of three days.

Antibiotics given for the other medical procedures may vary. Call your surgeon for advice before having any medical procedure done. It will also be necessary for you to be treated with a full course of antibiotics if you develop an infection such as an abscessed tooth, pneumonia, bronchitis, skin or urinary infections. See your family physician to be placed on the correct antibiotic treatment for medical problems such as these.