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**PAUL J. KING, MD
DENTAL/ ANTIBIOTIC LETTER**

You have undergone a total joint replacement procedure. There are instances when infection in one part of the body may cause bacteria to circulate in your blood, possibly resulting in infection at the site of your implant. Therefore, it is essential that you seek prompt treatment of infections anywhere in your body.

Good dental hygiene is important and you should see your dentist for regular dental care, whether or not you are having a dental problem. Prompt treatment of infections, particularly in the skin or urinary tract is important.

For all routine dental cleanings or if you are to undergo a dental/surgical procedure where the surgeon or dentist feels that there is a possibility of a bacterial contamination, we recommend a course of antibiotics be dispensed. For dental procedures, or procedures that require instrumentation of the upper respiratory tract, we recommend amoxicillin 2 grams by mouth, 1 hour before the procedure. We recommend this antibiotic for gastrointestinal or genitourinary procedures as well. If there is an allergy to amoxicillin or penicillin, then use Clindamycin 600 mg by mouth, 1 hour prior to the procedure. We recommend antibiotic prophylaxis over your entire lifespan.

The avoidance of bacterial contamination and infection should help the risk of infection at the site of the total joint implant. Since prompt treatment is essential, please do not hesitate to consult your primary care physician, dentist or surgeon should an issue occur.

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