

**Antibiotic Pre-Medication Guidelines for Dental Procedures
(For Prevention of Infective Endocarditis)**
Guidelines from the American Heart Association – Published April 2007

Introduction

On April 19, 2007 the American Heart Association released new guidelines for heart patients regarding the use of antibiotics before dental procedures. After an extensive review of scientific literature from 1950 to 2006, the AHA's Endocarditis Committee and experts found that only an exceedingly small number of cases (if any) of infective endocarditis (IE), also known as bacterial endocarditis (BE), might be prevented by antibiotic prophylaxis prior to a dental procedure.

Based upon these findings, the current practice of giving patients antibiotics prior to a dental procedure is no longer recommended **EXCEPT** for patients with the highest risk of adverse outcomes resulting from BE (see the table below).

The following are the new guidelines as published in the American Heart Association's article and the new AHA's Prevention of Bacterial Endocarditis wallet card.

New Guidelines

**Patients No Longer Needing
To Take Antibiotic Pre-Medication
(Most Patients)**

- Mitral valve prolapse
- Rheumatic heart disease
- Bicuspid valve disease
- Calcified aortic stenosis
- Congenital heart conditions such as:
 - a. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
 - b. Ventricular septal defect
 - c. Atrial septal defect

**Patients Still Recommended
To Take Antibiotic Pre-Medication
(Few Patients)**

- Prosthetic cardiac valve
- Previous endocarditis
- Congenital heart disease only in the following categories:
 - a. Unrepaired cyanotic congenital heart disease, including those with palliative shunts and conduits
 - b. Completely repaired congenital heart disease with prosthetic material or device, whether placed by surgery or catheter intervention, during the first six months after the procedure
 - c. Repaired congenital heart disease with residual defects at the site or adjacent to the site of a prosthetic patch or prosthetic device (which inhibit endothelialization)
- Cardiac transplantation recipients with cardiac valvular disease

In Conclusion

For most heart patients, this means you will no longer be asked to pre-medicate prior to dental treatment. For more information on this subject, you can go to the American Heart Association at

www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=11086

If a patient has been prescribed dental pre-medication by a medical doctor, he/she may want to consult his/her physician regarding the new guidelines and ask if pre-medication is still needed.

Compliments of

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