



## CDA Position on **Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Dental Patients with Total Joint Replacement**

The Canadian Dental Association maintains its support of the 2003 statement of the American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) concerning antibiotic prophylaxis for dental patients with total joint replacements.

The statement suggests that routine antibiotic prophylaxis is **not** indicated for most dental patients with total joint replacements, nor for patients with orthopedic pins, plates and screws.

The statement emphasizes that patients should be in optimal oral health prior to having total joint replacement and should maintain good oral hygiene and oral health following surgery. Orofacial infections in patients with total joint prostheses should be treated vigorously to eliminate the source of infection and prevent its spread.

According to the statement, prophylactic antibiotics should be considered for a small number of patient types undergoing dental procedures that are at a higher risk of producing a bacteremia. These patient types are:

- all patients during the first two years following joint replacement;
- immunocompromised/immunosuppressed patients; and
- patients with comorbidities including previous prosthetic joint infections.

The ADA/AAOS advisory statement, which lists high-risk dental procedures and suggested antibiotic prophylaxis regimens, is found at:\*

<http://jada.ada.org/cgi/content/full/134/7/895>

Approved  
CDA Board of Directors  
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\*link updated October 2009