

ANTIBIOTIC POLICY:

Australian Arthroplasty Society Position Statement:

The use of prophylactic antibiotics in patients with joint replacements undergoing dental procedures is controversial.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American Dental Association (ADA) released a combined Clinical Practice Guideline in 2013 following an extensive review of the available literature.

They concluded that there is a lack of evidence that a bacteraemia produced from dental treatment is linked to deep prosthetic infection and there is a lack of evidence that the use of antibiotics prevents the development of deep prosthetic infection.

The AAOS-ADA produced three recommendations and the level of supporting evidence was stated.

1. The practitioner considers changing the longstanding practice of prescribing prophylactic antibiotics for patients who undergo dental procedures. (*There is Limited evidence to support this practice*)
2. No conclusion can be drawn for or against the use of topical antibiotics for patients who undergo dental procedures. (*Inconclusive evidence*)
3. Patients should maintain good oral health (*Consensus*)

RECOMMENDATION

The Australian Arthroplasty Society agrees with this analysis and now recommends no routine antibiotic prophylaxis be given to patients with joint prostheses undergoing dental procedures.

In the immunocompromised patient or those with poor oral hygiene the surgeon is recommended to discuss the risk and benefits with his or her individual patient.

This is general advice and consideration should be given to individual patient circumstances.

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Michael Solomon
Hip & Knee
Joint Replacement &
Arthroscopy
9650 4837

David Broe
Hip & Knee
9650 4397

Angus Gray
Paediatric Orthopaedics
Scoliosis & Limb
Lengthening
9650 4836

Arnold Suzuki
Paediatric Orthopaedics
Adult Trauma & General
8078 0632

Wade Harper
Shoulder & Elbow
9650 4834

Alan Dao
Shoulder & Elbow
8078 0633

David Lunz
Foot & Ankle
9650 4835

Jeff Ling
Foot & Ankle
Adult & Children
9650 4782

Ralph Stanford
Spinal Surgery
9650 4893

Stuart Myers
Hand & Wrist
9650 4382

Bernard Schick
Hand & Wrist
9650 4978

John Stephen
Medico-legal
9650 4770

Suite 29, 21, 11
Prince Of Wales Private
Hospital, Barker Street
Randwick, NSW, 2031

All Enquiries & Correspondence

Ph : 9650 4983
Fax : 9650 4905

Prince Of Wales Private
Hospital,
Locked Bag 2
Randwick, NSW, 2031