

Antibiotic Prophylaxis in joint replacements

This information is intended for healthcare professionals who are treating a patient with a joint replacement.

Antibiotics in joint replacements is an occasional precautionary measure which is taken in patients with an endoprosthesis of a joint due to an increased risk of the occurrence of an infection of the prosthesis following a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure in which a bacteremia may occur. The prophylaxis is applicable to joint replacements of major joints (hip, knee, ankle, shoulder, elbow and wrist).

This advice is derived from the guidelines for *"Totale Heupprothese 2010"* and for *"Antibioticoprofylaxe bij tandheelkundige ingrepen bij patiënten met een gewrichtsprothese 2015"* by the Dutch Orthopaedic Association (<http://richtlijndatabase.nl/>).

Short-term antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended for:

1. An existing skin infection (erysipelas, unguis incarnatus, diabetic foot ulcers, leg ulcers) Especially if it occurs at the same extremity and the patient has a reduced resistance.
2. Undergoing the following invasive procedures:
 - All invasive procedures if the patient has a reduced resistance (rheumatism, insulineindependent diabetes mellitus, HIV, AIDS, and the use of immunosuppressants)
 - Cystoscopy if the urine culture is positive in a symptom
 - Endoscopy (endoscopic surgery) in infected area
 - Oesofagoscopic interventions

Dental procedures:

1. There is no indication for antibiotic prophylaxis as a precautionary measure to prevent a haematogeneous infection of a joint replacement. Even in immune compromised patients.
2. It is advisable to promote dental hygiene and regular dental checks in patients with a joint replacement.

The choiche of the drug

The choice of the drug could be a one-time administration of Amoxicillin and Clavulanic acid (Augmentin®, 2 tablets of 500/125 mg orally 1 hour before surgery). If allergic to Amoxicillin and Clavulanic acid, the advice is clindamycin, 600 mg orally 1 hour prior to surgery.

Your questions

For questions, please contact the Outpatient Orthopaedics Department on weekdays from 08:30 am to 4:30 pm

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