

Patient Information -> Dental Prophylaxis

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Dental Prophylaxis Disclaimer: The following information is intended for cardiology patients seen by the Pediatric Cardiology Medical Group - East Bay. If you are not one of our patients, consult your cardiologist regarding dental prophylaxis. If you are one of our patients, contact us with any questions before your child undergoes a dental procedure.

Bacterial endocarditis is an infection of the lining of the heart which may occur in patents with certain structural abnormalities of the heart or large blood vessels. Dental procedures and many surgical procedures can be associated with bacteria entering the blood stream. These bacteria may lodge and grow on damaged or abnormal heart valves or near other defects.

This type of infection occurs rarely. However, to reduce the risk, antibiotics can be given before dental and many surgical procedures. Prior to any dental or surgical procedure you should discuss prophylaxis with your physician or dentist so that, when indicated, he or she may prescribe appropriate antibiotics before the procedure (see prescription information below). Please call our department if surgery involves the upper respiratory, genitourinary or gastrointestinal tract.

We recommend that antibiotic prophylaxis be given for tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy and also for all dental procedures likely to cause bleeding from the gums, including routine cleaning.

Dental prophylaxis is not necessary for adjustment of orthodontic appliances or when losing deciduous (baby) teeth.

If fever should occur at any time during the 2 months after your procedure, report it promptly to your pediatrician.

Prescription Information

Dosages for most patients:

- Oral: Amoxicillin 50 mg/kg (maximum 2.0g) 1 hour before procedure.
- Parenteral: Ampicillin 50 mg/kg (maximum 2.0g) IM or IV 30 minutes before procedure.

For patients who may be allergic to penicillin-amoxicillin:

- Oral: Clindamycin 20 mg/kg (maximum 600 mg) 1 hour before procedure.
- Parenteral: Clindamycin 20 mg/kg (maximum 600 mg) IV 30 minutes before procedure.

Please note that your child's cardiologist will generate the initial prescription. All subsequent prescriptions will be prepared by your child's dentist.



Disclaimer: The information provided here is intended to educate the reader about certain medical conditions and certain possible treatment. It is not a substitute for examination, diagnosis, and medical care provided by a licensed and qualified health professional. If you believe you, your child, or someone you know, suffer from the conditions described herein, please see your health care provider immediately. Do not attempt to treat yourself, your child or anyone else without proper medical supervision.

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