

Summary of Recommendations

The following is a summary of the recommendations of the AAOS-ADA clinical practice guideline, Prevention of Orthopaedic Implant Infection in Patients Undergoing Dental Procedures. This summary does not contain rationales that explain how and why these recommendations were developed, nor does it contain the evidence supporting these recommendations. All readers of this summary are strongly urged to consult the full guideline and evidence report for this information. We are confident that those who read the full guideline and evidence report will see that the recommendations were developed using systematic evidence-based processes designed to combat bias, enhance transparency, and promote reproducibility.

This summary of recommendations is not intended to stand alone. Treatment decisions should be made in light of all circumstances presented by the patient. Treatments and procedures applicable to the individual patient rely on mutual communication between patient, physician, dentist and other healthcare practitioners.

1. The practitioner might consider discontinuing the practice of routinely prescribing prophylactic antibiotics for patients with hip and knee prosthetic joint implants undergoing dental procedures.

Grade of Recommendation: Limited

Definition: A **Limited** recommendation means the quality of the supporting evidence that exists is unconvincing, or that well-conducted studies show little clear advantage to one approach versus another. Evidence from two or more “Low” strength studies with consistent findings, or evidence from a single Moderate quality study recommending for or against the intervention or diagnostic.

Implications: Practitioners should be cautious in deciding whether to follow a recommendation classified as **Limited**, and should exercise judgment and be alert to emerging publications that report evidence. Patient preference should have a substantial influencing role.

2. We are unable to recommend for or against the use of topical oral antimicrobials in patients with prosthetic joint implants or other orthopaedic implants undergoing dental procedures.

Grade of Recommendation: Inconclusive

Definition: An **Inconclusive** recommendation means that there is a lack of compelling evidence resulting in an unclear balance between benefits and potential harm. Evidence from a single low quality study or conflicting findings that do not allow a recommendation for or against the intervention.

Implications: Practitioners should feel little constraint in deciding whether to follow a recommendation labeled as **Inconclusive** and should exercise judgment and be alert to future publications that clarify existing evidence for determining balance of benefits versus potential harm. Patient preference should have a substantial influencing role.

3. In the absence of reliable evidence linking poor oral health to prosthetic joint infection, it is the opinion of the work group that patients with prosthetic joint implants or other orthopaedic implants maintain appropriate oral hygiene.

Grade of Recommendation: Consensus

Definition: A **Consensus** recommendation means that expert opinion supports the guideline recommendation even though there is no available empirical evidence that meets the inclusion criteria. The supporting evidence is lacking and requires the work group to make a recommendation based on expert opinion by considering the known potential harm and benefits associated with the treatment.

Implications: Practitioners should be flexible in deciding whether to follow a recommendation classified as **Consensus**, although they may set boundaries on alternatives. Patient preference should have a substantial influencing role.

