

Dental Premedication Guidelines Have Changed

New guidelines have been issued by the American Heart Association (AHA) regarding premedicating for dental work and cleanings.

In past years, it was believed that Infective Endocarditis (IE) was caused by bacteria in the blood also known as “Bacteremia.” It was believed that after dental procedures, the bacteria in the bloodstream could settle on susceptible areas such as prosthetic valves and so on. New evidence has found many variances.

Previous American Heart Association guidelines on the prevention of Infective Endocarditis were largely based on opinion and limited studies. The most recent recommendations were developed through an evidence-based approach that was made after 20 years of extensive review. The new recommendation reduces the number of conditions that require premedication. Guidelines went under review due in part to the risk associated with widespread immunity to antibiotic treatment.

Patients with these conditions NO LONGER require prophylactic antibiotics:

Mitral Valve Prolapse

Rheumatic Heart Disease

Bicuspid Valve Disease

Calcified Aortic Stent

Congenital Heart Disease like Ventricular Septal Defect, Atrial Defect, and Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

The new recommendations suggest antibiotic treatment for patients with the following conditions:

Prosthetic Cardiac Valve

Previous Infective Endocarditis

Congenital Heart Disease

Unrepaired Cyanotic CHD, including Palliative Shunts and Conduits

Completely repaired Congenital Heart Defect during the first 6 months after the procedure

Cardiac repaired transplant patient who develop Cardiac Valvopathy

Patients with any of these conditions should consult a medical doctor and bring a letter with your physician's recommendations to keep in your dental file. For more information, questions, or to schedule an appointment please contact Smiles by Design at 334-687-0088