

Antibiotics After Breast Implant

A lifelong precaution

This handout explains important precautions to take after breast implant.

When you have a breast implant, whether it is short-term or permanent, we advise you to take *prophylactic* (preventive) antibiotics any time you have a procedure that might allow bacteria into your bloodstream. This includes any dental work or medical procedure. Taking antibiotics will help prevent infection.

Call the Center for Reconstructive Surgery at 206.598.1217 if you have questions about whether you need antibiotics before a planned procedure.

Special Precautions for 3 Months

For 3 months after your breast implant surgery, do **not** have:

- *Elective* (not required) dental work
- Procedures that involve your:
 - *Respiratory system* – airway or lungs
 - *Digestive system* – *esophagus* (the tube food goes down), stomach, or intestines
 - *Urinary tract* – bladder, kidneys, or the tubes urine goes through

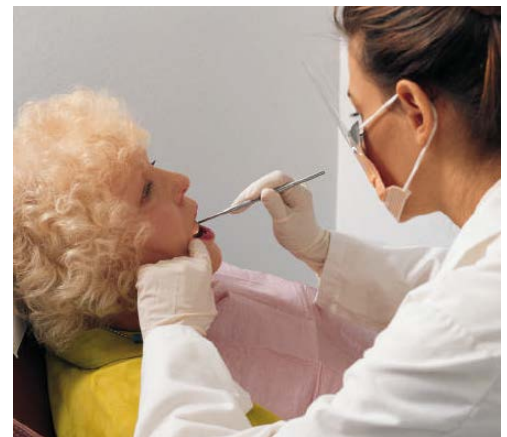
The only exceptions are if you need an emergency procedure or a procedure to treat an infection.

Lifelong Precautions

Dental Work

After breast implant, we advise you to take antibiotics before all dental work, even routine teeth cleaning. Do this pre-treatment for the rest of your life.

- If you are **not** allergic to penicillin, take 2 grams of cephalexin, cephradine, or amoxicillin by mouth **1 hour before** you have any dental work done.



Before you have any dental work done, tell your dentist that you have a breast implant and need antibiotics.

If Your Healthcare Provider Has Questions

If your surgeon, primary care provider, or dentist has any questions about prophylactic antibiotics, please ask them to call the Center for Reconstructive Surgery at University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC): 206.598.1217.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., call the Center for Reconstructive Surgery at 206.598.1217, and press 8.

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call 206.598.6190 and ask for the resident on call for your surgeon to be paged.

- If you **are** allergic to penicillin, take 600 mg of clindamycin **1 hour before** you have any dental work done.

Your dentist or primary care provider (PCP) should be able to prescribe these antibiotics for you. If your dentist has any questions, they should call the Center for Reconstructive Surgery at 206.598.1217.

Non-Dental Procedures

If you are going to have a procedure that involves the respiratory, digestive, or urinary tract, you will most likely need a dose of antibiotics **before** the procedure to protect your breast implant.

Make sure that the doctor doing your procedure knows that you have a breast implant and that you need a dose of antibiotics before your procedure. If your surgeon or PCP has any questions about prophylactic antibiotics, have them call the Center for Reconstructive Surgery at 206.598.1217.

High-Risk Procedures

These are some of the procedures that are a high risk for letting bacteria into your bloodstream. **For the rest of your life, you must take antibiotics before having any of these procedures:**

Respiratory Tract Procedures

- Tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy
- Surgery that involves respiratory mucous membranes
- Bronchoscopy with a rigid bronchoscope

Gastrointestinal (Digestive) Tract Procedures

- Sclerotherapy for esophageal varices
- Esophageal stricture dilation
- Endoscopic retrograde cholangiography with biliary obstruction
- Biliary tract surgery
- Surgery that involves the intestines
- Colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy

Genital and Urinary Tract Procedures

- Cystoscopy
- Urethral dilation