

Let's Talk About Teeth

By Leon D. Hanna, DDS & Kayla S. Mazer, DDS

PREVENTION STRATEGY QUESTIONED

While both the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons recommend giving prophylactic antibiotics to patients with prosthetic joints, there is no evidence that doing so will stave off infection. So says a recent study that looked for evidence that this standard practice of administering antibiotics to dental patients with artificial joints had any effect. With the number of artificial joints implanted annually expected to rise to about four million by 2030, and many authorities urging less use of antibiotics, this is bound to be a big issue for people with artificial joints. Health experts have been warning for some time that unwarranted antibiotic use is leading to a rise in antibiotic resistance.

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