

Preventing Graft Infection After Vascular Surgery

You have synthetic graft material (meaning a graft made of something other than body tissue) from your bypass surgery. To protect your graft, you need to take antibiotics before certain medical or dental procedures. This helps prevent infection on the graft. Taking antibiotics before a procedure is called **antibiotic prophylaxis**.

When do I need to take antibiotics?

You should take antibiotics before these types of procedures:

- Dental procedures (cleaning, extractions, implants, etc.).
- Gastrointestinal procedures (colonoscopy, upper endoscopy, etc.).
- Genitourinary procedures (cystoscopy).
- Other invasive procedures or surgeries.

The doctor or dentist doing your procedure will prescribe the antibiotic.

What antibiotics are used?

Amoxicillin is the most common antibiotic used. The recommended dose is 2 grams (g) taken by mouth 1 hour before your procedure.

If you are allergic to penicillin types of antibiotics (like amoxicillin), your doctor or dentist can prescribe one of these instead:

- **Cephalexin**: The recommended dose is 2 g by mouth 1 hour before your procedure.
- **Azithromycin or clarithromycin**: The recommended dose is 500 mg by mouth 1 hour before your procedure.

- **Doxycycline:** The recommended dose is 100 mg by mouth 1 hour before your procedure.

Please share this information with your primary care provider and dentist.

How can I learn more?

You can find more information about antibiotic prophylaxis on the American Heart Association website at: heart.org/-/media/files/health-topics/infective-endocarditis/infective-endocarditis-wallet-card.pdf?la=en



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