

Dental information for patients undergoing congenital cardiac interventional procedures

Unless you are wearing a full set of dentures, it is important that before your cardiology procedure you visit a dentist to ensure that your teeth and gums are in a healthy state

Why is it important to check that my teeth and gums are healthy before a procedure?

- Infective endocarditis is a serious condition caused by infection of the lining of the heart and valves. People born with a heart condition (repaired or unrepaired) are at slightly higher risk of endocarditis than the rest of the population.
- The most common source of infection in patients with infective endocarditis is the mouth, teeth and gums.
- A painful tooth while you are recovering from surgery can be difficult to deal with if you need to attend the dentist or have an extraction.

How do I obtain dental assessment before my procedure?

If you have your own general dental practitioner you should make an appointment to be seen by them **as soon as you are aware** that you are going to have a procedure.

- Please let the receptionist know that it is important for you to be seen as soon as possible because of your procedure.
- If any treatment is required it should be carried out at least 2 weeks before the date of your procedure.
- If you are not registered with a dentist please contact your local practice to register and book an appointment, or call NHS 111 who can assist you in arranging an appointment.

What if I need dental treatment?

If you are found to have outstanding dental treatment or infections of the teeth or gums

before your procedure it may be decided to **postpone the procedure until the dental treatment can be carried out**. If this is the case please call 0117 342 6599 to discuss.

Do I need to have this for all types of cardiology procedures?

This is dependent upon the type of procedure you are having.

If you are having a procedure involving your heart valves (for example implantation of a valve) or if your procedure involves implanting material into your heart then you need to have a dental check-up before the procedure can take place.

Following your cardiology procedure

If your cardiology procedure involved implanting prosthetic (artificial) material into your heart, you will require a dose of antibiotics before any dental treatment can be carried out. You will only need to have the antibiotics if the dental procedure is preformed within the first six months after your procedure.

If your cardiology procedure involved implanting a new valve into your heart then you will require a dose of antibiotics before any dental treatment can be carried out. This is a lifelong requirement.

Why do I need antibiotics before dental procedures?

You will need antibiotics following cardiology procedures to prevent you developing infective endocarditis. This is an infection which can cause damage within your heart. If you have problems with your teeth (for example cavities) bacteria can enter your bloodstream through the cavity and travel to your heart.

Previous infective endocarditis

If you have had infective endocarditis in the past you are at a higher risk of developing endocarditis again. You should have antibiotics before any dental procedure is performed. This is a lifelong requirement.

Contact

If you have any concerns or you would like to discuss anything further, please contact the adult congenital heart disease clinical nurse specialists on the contact details below;

Tel: **0117 342 6599**

Email: **ubh-tr.achdclinicalnursespecialist@nhs.net**.

Further information can be found on the South Wales and South West Congenital Heart Disease website www.swschd.co.uk

