

Ethics Corner

What Would You Do?

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Ethics Committee Chair



Here's another ethical dilemma for you to ponder.

A new patient presents to a general dentist. The dentist obtains the patient's medical history: The patient is a 55-year-old male who had a total hip replacement performed four years prior. The patient has no other medical issues. The patient informs the dentist that his orthopedic surgeon advised him to take antibiotics prior to any dental work. According to the patient, the orthopedic surgeon stressed that if he did not take antibiotics, his "new" hip could become infected, potentially leading to removing and replacing that hip yet again. The patient expresses his reluctance by adding, "There is no way I want to go through that!"

The dentist performs a complete clinical and radiographic examination. A treatment plan is formulated that involves prophylaxis, several restorations, root canals, and crowns. After a thorough discussion, the patient agrees to have the necessary work performed and makes several appointments to get started. Before leaving, the patient requests that the dentist give him a prescription for antibiotics so he can pre-medicate as his orthopedist recommended.

Please review the evidence-based recommendations from the American Dental Association for the Management of Patients with Prosthetic Joints Undergoing Dental Procedures, which can be found [HERE](#).

Please note these recommendations were developed jointly by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American Dental Association (ADA). More information is available [HERE](#).

Learning through open dialogue is key. So, let's continue discussing with one another! What would you say to the patient? Would you reach out to the orthopedist? If so, how would you handle that conversation? Share your thoughts by emailing info@nycdentalsociety.org. As always, I'm excited to hear what you have to say.

Special thanks to Touro College of Dental Medicine faculty member Dr. Eric Wachs for his input on this article.

Don't forget to RSVP for April GMM!



Members Only Event

General Membership Meeting

Followed by a professional program:

Considerations For Treating Patients

On The Spectrum

led by Ronald W. Kosinski, DMD

Clinical Director, Oral Health Center for People with Disabilities
New York University

New York County Dental Society

622 Third Avenue, 9th Floor

Monday, April 3, 2023

Reception at 5:30pm

Presentation at 6:30pm

1 CE CREDIT GRANTED

Call 212-573-8500 to RSVP

Please RSVP by March 17

