

#DM2002-36

“PREMEDICATION - WHEN IT IS NECESSARY”

IF YOU SUFFER FROM HEART DISEASE, RECENTLY HAD A HEART ATTACK OR WEAR A PACE MAKER, YOU COULD BE A CANDIDATE FOR PREMEDICATION PRIOR TO DENTAL TREATMENT. OCCASIONALLY, DURING CERTAIN DENTAL TREATMENTS, LIKE TEETH CLEANING OR SURGERY, BLEEDING MAY OCCUR.

THIS PUTS PATIENTS WITH HEART CONDITIONS AT RISK SINCE THE BACTERIA FROM THE MOUTH MAY WORK ITS WAY INTO THE BLOODSTREAM AND POSSIBLY CAUSE AN INFLAMMATION OF THE HEART VALVES CALLED BACTERIAL ENDOCARDITIS.

THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION REGULARLY PUBLISHES GUIDELINES FOR DENTISTS TO HELP PROTECT AT-RISK PATIENTS. PREMEDICATION IS OFTEN RECOMMENDED AND CAN HELP LOWER THE RISK OF BACTERIAL INFECTION.

YOUR DENTIST MAY PRESCRIBE ANTIBIOTICS PRIOR TO DENTAL TREATMENT DEPENDING ON WHAT IS TO BE PERFORMED AND THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL CONDITION. SO BE SURE TO PROVIDE YOUR MOST CURRENT MEDICAL INFORMATION ALONG WITH ANY MEDICATION YOU MAY BE TAKING.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK YOUR DENTIST.

FOR THE ADA DENTAL MINUTE, I'M DR. MARIA LOPEZ HOWELL.