The Role of The Dentist in the Prevention of Endocarditis

Samah Alasrawi1*, Futoun Amin2 and Younes Alesrawi3
1Pediatric Cardiologist, AlJalila Children’s Hospital, Dubai, UAE
2Dentist, Syrian Health Authority, Damascus, Syria
3Dentist, Gemeinschaft Praxis Bohm and Bohm, Germany
*Corresponding Author: Samah Alasrawi, Pediatric Cardiologist, AlJalila Children’s Hospital, Dubai, UAE.

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Abstract

Introduction: Endocarditis is a life-threatening inflammation of the lining inside the heart. Although it can occur in anyone, caused by a bacterial infection, it is much more common in people with certain heart conditions and in those who have history of endocarditis before [1].

Objectives: To know high risk patients for endocarditis who should receive the prophylaxis, the dental procedure, which required endocarditis prophylactic before it.

Conclusion: Prevention of endocarditis in the dental clinic important for some dental procedure in the high risk patients for endocarditis.

Keywords: Dentist; Endocarditis; Prophylaxis

Introduction

Endocarditis is a life-threatening inflammation of the lining inside the heart. Although it can occur in anyone, caused by a bacterial infection, it is much more common in people with certain heart conditions and in those who have history of endocarditis before [1].

To prevent endocarditis, patients with certain heart conditions receive a single dose of an antibiotic one hour prior to certain dental treatments [1].

High risk patients for endocarditis who should receive the prophylaxis:

1. History of bacterial endocarditis before [2,3].
2. A prosthetic (artificial) cardiac valve or prosthetic material used in valve repair [2].
3. Patients who have pacemakers or others devices like ICD (implantable cardioverter defibrillator) and CRT-D (Cardiac resynchronization therapy defibrillator) [2].
4. Cardiac transplant [3].
5. Congenital heart disease. This includes only people with the following [2-4]:

Cyanotic congenital heart disease, which not repaired yet.

Completely repaired congenital heart defect with prosthetic material or device during the first six months after the procedure.

Repaired congenital heart disease with residual defects near the site of a prosthetic patch or prosthetic device.

Patients with cardiovascular diseases are frequently encountered in dental practice and it is necessary to treat them. Safe and effective dental management of such patients requires close medical and dental coordination, knowledge of drugs used in treatment of the cardiac diseases.

These patients should visit the dentist every 3 - 6 months, even if no any dental complain, And for checkup only [5,6].

The dental procedure which required endocarditis prophylactic before it [4,5]:

1. Dental procedures that need manipulation of gingival tissue or the periapical region of teeth (tip of the tooth root).
2. When the inside lining of the mouth is perforated.

The guidelines do not recommend antibiotics for these dental procedures or events [7,8]:

- Routine anesthetic injections through noninfected tissue
- Placement of removable prosthodontic or orthodontic appliances
- Sheding of baby teeth
- Adjustment of orthodontic appliances
- Dental X-rays
- Placement of orthodontic brackets
- Bleeding from trauma to the lips or inside of the mouth.

Antibiotics prophylaxis [9]

The antibiotics should be given as a single dose 30 to 60 min before the dental procedure (Table 1).

**Table 1:** The ADA (American Dental Association) recommendation for antibiotics before dental procedures for the cardiac patients 2017.

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Conclusion

Prevention of endocarditis in the dental clinic important for some dental procedure in the high risk patients for endocarditis, also the good oral health and regular follow up with a dentist, can prevent the heart from one of the most serious infection in the body.

Bibliography