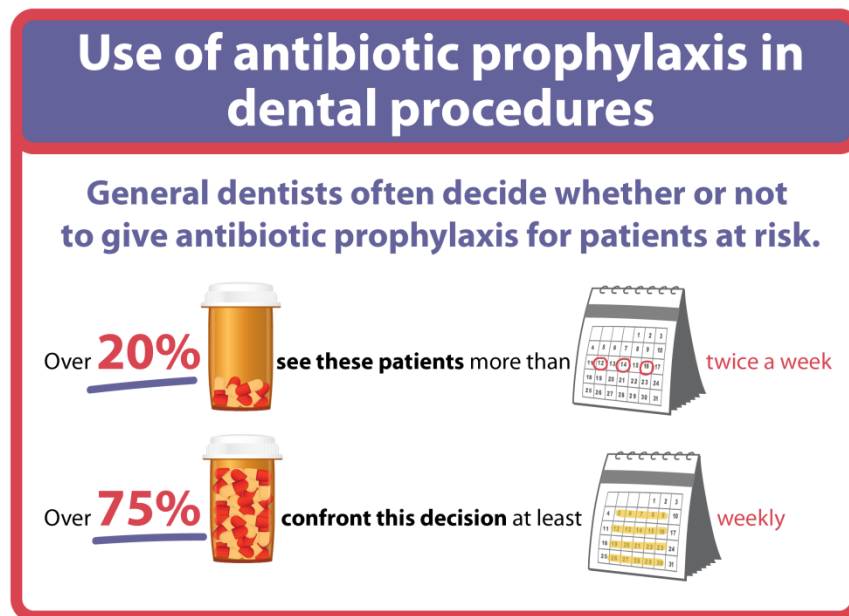


Quick Poll Results—Use of Prophylactic Antibiotics Prior to Dental Procedures

With the increase in antibiotic-resistant bacteria, there is increasing worldwide concern about the widespread use of antibiotics for some prophylactic as well as therapeutic purposes. The March 2015 Quick Poll had an outstanding response rate (i.e., 775) to the 5-question survey of Network members; and it revealed several important issues for future exploration.



Regarding the decision about antibiotic prophylaxis for patients with prosthetic joints, dentists are fairly evenly split between:

- Using the 2012 guidelines from the ADA/AAOS
- Using the February 2015 ADA Statement
- Leaving it up to the patient's orthopedist.

When asked if the benefits of using antibiotic prophylaxis outweigh the risks for patients with prosthetic joints, dentists are also evenly split—responding that there isn't enough science to know one way or another.

General dentists made up 85 percent of the respondents, so a sub-analysis of the results for individual specialties isn't possible, but this will be addressed in a large Network survey of dentists planned for early 2016. The information we get from the planned National Dental PBRN survey will be instrumental to our understanding of the use of antibiotics for prophylaxis purposes. The guidelines for different patient populations has evolved over the past several years and it is important to know how these guidelines are being used and if guidelines need to be developed for other patient populations. Given the confusion that exists in this area of clinical practice, this future survey data will help in the design of continuing education programs on this topic.

Thank you to those who completed the poll. To continue the conversation, go to Quick Poll Results in the [Member Forum](#).