



## PIC QUESTION OF THE WEEK: 10/18/04

Q: Is antimicrobial prophylaxis necessary for a patient undergoing colonoscopy who has a prosthetic mitral valve?

A: There is no specific recommendation in the most recent American Heart Association guideline on endocarditis prophylaxis that requires pre-treatment antibiotics for patients undergoing colonoscopy. Some gastroenterologists do consider colonoscopy to be a sufficient risk factor as to routinely recommend prophylaxis in this situation. The National Guideline Clearinghouse's statement on antibiotic prophylaxis states that it is "optional" in patients undergoing colonoscopy. It would appear this issue is not yet resolved, but prescribing such a regimen would not necessarily be inappropriate. The standard regimen for gastrointestinal procedures in patients at risk of endocarditis consists of a combination of IM or IV ampicillin plus gentamicin administered within thirty minutes of the procedure. A 1 g dose of amoxicillin given 6 hours after the procedure has been utilized for standard gastrointestinal procedures when endocarditis prophylaxis is necessary.

Ref:

AHA. Prevention of bacterial endocarditis. JAMA 1997;277:1794-1801.

National Guideline Clearinghouse. Antibiotic prophylaxis for endoscopic procedures.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=4143](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=4143) (accessed 10/14/04)

Tiffany J. Kern, Pharmacy Clerkship Student

Chad M. Schropp, Pharmacy Clerkship Student