

Why a Healthy Smile Matters Before Surgery

Planning a joint replacement or heart surgery? Your to-do list probably includes lab work, medication reviews, and arranging a ride home. But one important step is often overlooked: a visit to your dentist.

Your mouth is home to millions of bacteria. When gums are inflamed or a tooth is infected, those bacteria can enter the bloodstream, sometimes simply from chewing or brushing. A healthy body usually handles this easily. During and after major surgery, however, your immune system is working overtime, and new implants such as artificial hips, knees, or heart valves can give bacteria a place to settle. Infections of a prosthetic joint or the heart's lining (endocarditis) are serious, can require additional surgery, and may lengthen recovery.

That's why many surgeons ask patients to get dental clearance before scheduling a procedure. Treating gum disease, cavities, or abscesses ahead of time helps lower your risk and keeps your surgery on schedule, since an untreated dental problem can lead to postponement.

At Lake Grove Dental, we make pre-surgical care simple. We'll perform a thorough exam and professional cleaning, identify and treat any problem areas, and coordinate with your surgeon or provide the documentation they need. We recommend booking your visit several weeks before surgery so there's time for any treatment to heal.

Whether you're a longtime patient or new to our practice, we're here to help you go into surgery healthy and confident. Call Lake Grove Dental today to schedule your pre-surgical appointment.