

DRAIN INSTRUCTIONS

One or more Jackson-Pratt drains were placed at the time of your surgery to remove blood and serum. The drain will be removed in clinic when the amount of drainage decreases enough for your body to absorb any remaining fluid. Measure the total output of each drain separately over 24 hour periods in ml (not ounces).

General Instructions:

1. The drain has a suture holding it in place as it comes out of the skin. There may be some redness at this site.
2. There may be some drainage or blood at the drain site.
3. Drainage is initially bloody and becomes lighter in color as days pass.
4. Drainage may increase briefly as your activity levels increase.
5. If the drainage increases at the site and decreases in the collection bulb, the tubing may have become clogged. You will need to “milk” the tubing by pinching the tube closed at the skin with one hand and grasping the drain tube between a moistened thumb and index finger of the other hand. Strip the tubing toward the collection bulb. With the stripping fingers still pinching the drain tubing closed, release the closure of the tubing at the skin site. This may need to be repeated several times.
6. You should strip, drain and record each drain and the associated output every 8 hours. You should perform this sooner if your drain is full before the 8 hour period.

Emptying the Drain:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Remove the small plug from the top of the drain bulb. Measure the drainage by the graduations on the bulb wall or empty the drainage into a graduated medicine cup. Note the volume and time.
3. Dispose of the drainage in the sink or toilet.
4. Compress the bulb tightly in your fist. Squeeze the air from the bulb. Close the top plug. The bulb will remain compressed and create suction for the drain.
5. Use a safety pin to attach the collection bulb to your clothing so there is no tension at the insertion site.

Showering with the Drain: You may shower with the drains. Pin or clip them to a lanyard or shoelace while you shower.

Date of Surgery:_____

Record all volumes in milliliters (ml's) or cubic centimeters (cc's).

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