

Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drain

Care instructions

Your doctor is sending you home with a JP drain to speed healing of your wound. The drain removes blood and lymph fluid that may accumulate near the site of your surgery. Your drain is pinned to your clothing to allow for normal activity.

Please follow these instructions carefully. It is very important to avoid infection and other problems. Share these instructions with anyone who may assist in your home care.

Keep these tips in mind to help avoid problems with how your drain works:

- Always wash your hands before and after handling the drain.
- Avoid pulling or tugging too much on the drain. Accidentally pulling out the drain can be painful.

How do I strip the drain tubing?

1. Un-pin the drain bulb from your clothing.
2. Put a small amount of any kind of lotion on your index finger and thumb of the hand you will use to “strip” the tubing.
3. Place the index finger and thumb that are free of lotion at the top of the tubing and pinch.
4. Squeeze the tube with your lotioned index finger and thumb, sliding them down the full length of the tube.
5. Repeat stripping down the tube.

How do I empty the JP drain bulb?

Empty the bulb two times a day or more often as needed.

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water.
2. Remove the plug at the top of the bulb.
3. Empty the contents of the bulb into the measuring container you were given.

4. Squeeze the sides of the bulb together to remove the air.
5. Do not wash out the bulb after removing the air.
6. Replace the plug while the bulb is squeezed together. The bulb should stay flat after it is plugged.
7. Re-pin the bulb securely to your clothing with a safety pin.
8. Record the amount of drainage on the chart on the back side of this sheet.
9. Flush the drainage down the toilet.
10. Wash your hands with soap and warm water.

When should I call my doctor?

Call Dr. Sands or Dr. Colon

at 504-888-4297

if you have questions or concerns, or experience any of these symptoms:

- fever above 101 F or chills
- redness or swelling at the drain site
- foul- or unusual-smelling drainage
- increased pain
- pain not relieved by use of pain medications as directed
- bright red bloody drainage

continued

