



Drain Instructions

The Jackson-Pratt (JP) drain is a special tube that prevents body fluid from collecting near the site of your surgery. The drain pulls this fluid (by suction) into a bulb. The bulb can then be emptied and the fluid inside measured. Caring for the JP drain is easy. Depending on how much fluid drains from your surgical site, you will need to empty the bulb every 6 hours while awake. The bulb should be emptied when it is half full. Before you are discharged, your nurse will show you how to:

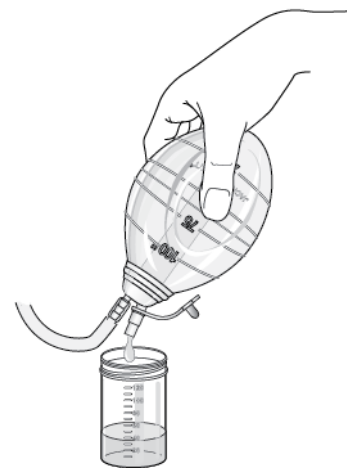
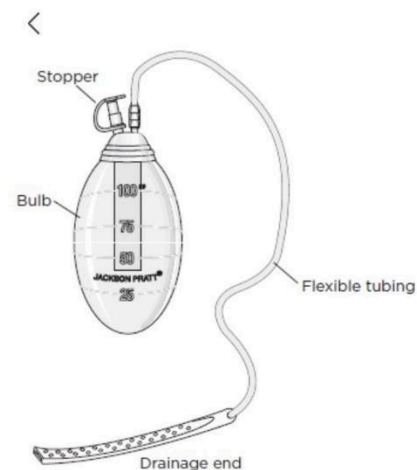
- u Empty the collection bulb.
- u Record the amount of fluid collected.
- u Squeeze the bulb flat and plug so that the suction works again.
- u Keep the drain site clean and free of infection.

How to empty the drain -

1. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
2. Pull the plug out of the bulb.
3. Pour the fluid inside the bulb into a measuring cup.
4. Clean the plug with alcohol. Then squeeze the bulb flat. While the bulb is flat, put the plug back into the bulb. The bulb should stay flat after it is plugged so that the vacuum suction can restart. If you can't squeeze the bulb flat and plug it at the same time, use a hard, flat surface (such as a table) to help you press the bulb flat while you replug it.
5. Measure how much fluid you collected. Write the amount of drainage, and the date and time you collected it, on the JP drainage chart at the end of this document.
6. Flush the fluid down the toilet.
7. Wash your hands.

How to care for the skin and the drain site -

1. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
2. Remove the dressing from around the drain. Use soap and water or 0.9 percent normal saline (on a gauze or cotton swab) to clean the drain site and the skin around it. Clean this area once a day.





3. When the drain site is clean and dry, put a new dressing around the drain. Put surgical tape on the dressing to hold it down against your skin.
4. Place the old dressing into the trash. If it is bloody, wrap it in a small plastic bag (like a sandwich bag).
5. Wash your hands.

Complications -

Sometimes, a large amount of fluid may leak from around the drain site, making the gauze dressing completely wet. If this happens, use soap and water to clean the area. Verify that the bulb drain is secured and “flat” to provide the needed suction. Another potential side effect is the development of a clot within the drain. This appears as a dark, stringy lining. It could prevent the drainage from flowing through the tube. Be sure to notify your doctor if either of these complications occurs.

When should I contact my healthcare provider? -

- You drain less than 30 milliliters (2 tablespoons) in 24 hours. This may mean your drain can be removed.
- You suddenly stop draining fluid or think your JP drain is blocked.
- You have a fever higher than 101.5°F (38.6°C).
- You have increased pain, redness, or swelling around the drain site.
- You have questions about your JP drain care.

Drain Log

Date:

Right Drain:	Left Drain:	Time:
Total Right:	Total Left:	



Date:

Right Drain:	Left Drain:	Time:
Total Right:	Total Left:	

Date:

Right Drain:	Left Drain:	Time:
Total Right:	Total Left:	

Date:

Right Drain:	Left Drain:	Time:
Total Right:	Total Left:	



Date:

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Total Right:	Total Left:	