

JP DRAIN INSTRUCTION SHEET

During your surgery, a drainage tube was inserted to remove fluid that would otherwise accumulate. This helps you heal faster and decrease the risk of complications. Your drain(s) will generally be removed 3-7 days after surgery.



How to empty your drain and record the volume;

Your drain should be emptied every 4-6 hours and recorded. The drains should be secured to your dressing or clothes so there is no tension at the place where it enters your skin. This illustration shows a drain that is ready to be emptied.



Hold the bulb gently in one hand and release the stopper. This will allow you to empty the fluid. The photo to the right shows the stopper released.



Once the plug is opened, this is the only way fluid will come out. There is a one way valve inside the bulb and you will not be able to squeeze fluid back up the drain. Have a cup for measuring close by. Be careful not to spill or spray the contents to keep from staining your clothing or bedding. Empty the fluid into the cup and record the amount.



Gently squeeze the bulb and replace the plug to re-establish the vacuum. If you check your drains and it is not collapsed, it is not able to drain the fluid.

You should notify your surgeon: if the drainage turns bright red or golden yellow and drains faster; if the amount is more than 50cc per hour for 2 hours in a row; if the drainage tube is accidentally pulled out; if the bulb will not stay compressed; if you have swelling or drainage at the drain insertion site; or for any other concerns you have.

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