

CARING FOR YOUR JACKSON-PRATT (JP) DRAIN AT HOME

The Jackson-Pratt (JP) drain helps keep the body fluid from collecting near your surgery site. You may leave the hospital before your drain is taken out. If so the nurse will teach you how to take care of your drain at home.

Taking care of a JP Drain

Keep the skin around your drain clean and dry. This means no swimming or tub baths. After washing your hands with soap and water, you can clean gently around the drain with soap and water.

Sometimes a small amount of fluid leaks out around the drain. Leaking fluid is not usually a problem, but it is messy. Check to see if you still have drainage in the bulb. If there is drainage into the bulb, cover the skin around the drain with a gauze bandage. Tell your doctor at your next appointment.

If you do not have drainage into the bulb, the drain may be blocked. Call your doctor during normal business hours. Do not wait until your next appointment.

The bulb gets heavy when it is full. This can cause it to pull your drain out of place. Empty the bulb often to keep it from pulling.

You can safety pin the drain to your clothes. The safety pin must go through the plastic loop. Then, pin the loop to your clothes. Be careful using pins. Ask your nurse to show you how to pin the loop safely. NEVER pin through the bulb or drain tube. Pin only through the loop.



Emptying and Measuring Drainage

Empty your bulb at least 2 times a day (in the morning and evening). If you have a lot of drainage, you may need to empty it more often. The drain works best when the bulb is collapsed.

Measure and write down how much fluid you empty. Take these numbers to your doctor's appointment. These numbers help your doctor decide when to take out your drain.

1. Wash your hands.



3. Pinch the drain tubing together to close it. This keeps the drainage from going back into the drain tube.



2. While holding the bulb upright, open the flip cap on the top of the bulb.



4. Keep pinching the drain tube closed. Turn the bulb upside down over the measuring cup. Squeeze the sides of the bulb. This moves the drainage into the measuring container.



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Jackson Pratt Drain #3

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Jackson Pratt Drain #4

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