

Care of the Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drain

These instructions will help you take care of yourself at home.

A JP Drain was stitched into your wound during surgery. The drain gently suctions and collects fluid, promoting healing and reducing swelling and the risk of infection.

Care of the JP Drain:

Keep the drain pinned to your clothing to avoid pulling on the stitches that hold the drain in place.

“Milk” the tubing as taught by your nurse, 2-3 times per day, to keep the tubing free from clots.

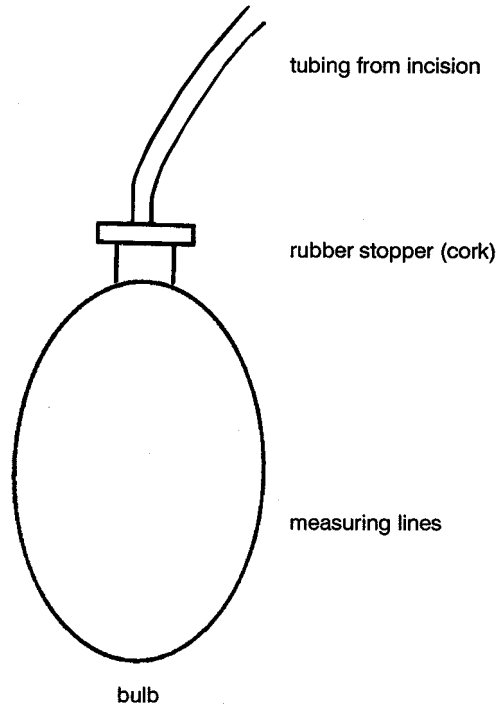
Clean the skin around the drain with soap and water daily. Pat the area gently. Do not rub.

Emptying and Recording the JP Drainage:

Empty the bulb 2-3 times daily or anytime it is $\frac{1}{2}$ full. After emptying, squeeze the bulb almost flat and replug it. This creates a gentle suction.

The amount should decrease with time and the color usually changes from red to straw.

Write down the date, time and amount of fluid each time you empty the drain. Keep this record and bring it with you when you return to see the doctor.



Infection

Watch for any sign of infection after surgery: **fever, chills, increased pain, redness, swelling, or foul smelling discharge from your wound.** Call your doctor at the first sign of any infection.



When to call your doctor

- The bulb does not hold suction
- Fluid begins to leak around the drain or collects under the skin around your wound.
- If the drainage amount doubles over a 24-hour period.



**Call (804) 924-0000 and
ask for "the resident on call"
for Dr. _____.**

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