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Diplomate American Board of Plastic Surgery, Diplomate American Board of Surgery

General Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery, Aesthetic Surgery, Plastic and Hand Surgery

Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drain Post-Operative Instructions

Purpose:

Prevent the buildup of blood and fluid from occurring in the surgical site, therefore reducing risk of infection



How to care for your drain

- The collection bulb should always be collapsed (flat) to maintain continuous suction
- The bulb needs to be emptied when it is filled with fluid or the bulb is no longer on suction
- The bulb may be pinned to clothing with a safety pin to prevent it from being dislodged or pulled
- Surgeon will usually remove the bulb when drainage is below 25~30 mL/day for two consecutive days

Figure 1

Emptying the drains

Hospital will discharge you with a measuring cup

1. Wash your hands with soap and water before and after touching the JP drain.
2. Uncap the drain and empty the contents into the measuring cup- note the amount in mL (Figure 2).
3. Squeeze the center of the bulb and recap with drain plug (Figure 3).
4. Record the time, amount of drainage and which drain it came from on the flowsheet.
5. Discard the drain contents in the toilet.
6. Bring the spreadsheet to the clinic for discussion.



Figure 2

Figure 3



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How to strip a JP drain of clogs

This procedure is performed when the drain is clogged and not draining

1. Pinch the tubing as close to the dressing or body with your nondominant hand.
2. Then use dominant hand to pinch the tubing near the first hand.
3. Milking or stripping the drain is performed by sliding two fingers along the tubing towards the bulb (Figure 4).
4. Repeat the steps above until obstruction is cleared.

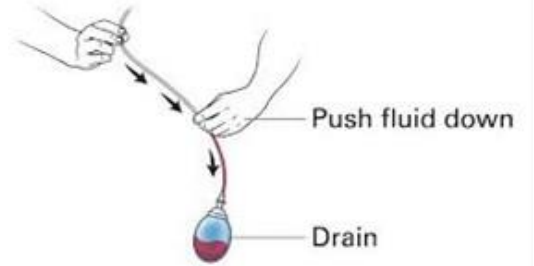


Figure 4

JP Drain Log

Date & Site	8am	2pm	9pm	Total