



James A. Rieger, MD
316-652-9333

Post Operative Information for Drain Care

A Jackson Pratt Drain or "JP" also called a bulb drain is placed during certain surgical procedures. This is a thin rubber tube connected to a soft, squeeze bulb. A length of the tubing is placed inside the body to drain fluid into the bulb outside the body from the tissue around the incision or wound. The length of time a drain will be in place varies based on individual healing, type of surgical procedure as well as the patient's activity level. Dr.

Rieger will remove the drain in the office when output for each drain is 15 cc or less in a 24-hour period for 2 consecutive days.

It is important to empty the drains and record the amount accurately. Pick a time you can do this consistently as we will ask for your totals in a 24 hour period, for example 9 am and 9 pm. This makes it easier for you to document accurately.

Emptying the drain:

- Wash your hands.
- Hold the bulb in one hand lower than the incision - this helps prevent back-flow into the wound
- Remove the plug from the bulb top. Tip the bulb and squeeze the fluid into the collection cup. Do NOT touch the mouth of the bulb to anything - this decreases the chance of getting germs into the bulb and tubing.
- Squeeze the bulb tightly to remove the air and carefully put the plug back in the bulb. This creates suction in the bulb which is needed to help remove the fluid. (Do NOT squeeze the bulb if the plug is in place.)
- You may need to "milk" the drain to keep it working properly. To do this, hold the tube near where it enters your skin with one hand. With your other hand, gently squeeze and slide your fingers down the tubing toward the bulb to help move any clots or thick fluid through.
- Each time you empty a drain, fill out one row in the chart.
- Write the date, time, and the amount from that drain.
- Repeat this for each drain every time you empty them.
- Flush the fluid down the toilet.
- Wash your hands.

Please note, if the drain comes out do not attempt to reinsert it as this may introduce bacteria. Call the office at 316-652-9333 to let Dr. Rieger know.

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Post Operative Information Abdominoplasty Drain Output

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