



## The Johns Hopkins Hospital Patient Information

Original Date 10/08  
Surgery  
Revised/ Reviewed  
1/2016

### CARING FOR YOUR DRAIN Jackson-Pratt(JP Drain)

#### JP Drain



A **Jackson- Pratt drain, JP drain, or Bulb drain** provides a constant low suction to pull air or excess fluid from your surgical site for faster healing and prevention of complications.

You will need to learn how to care for your drain. It will remain in place until you return to see your provider. An appointment should be made to remove the drain.

#### Supplies



Gather Supplies:

- Normal Saline solution
- Gauze, 4x4 dressing( or large enough to cover the site)
- Tape
- Measuring cup
- Cotton tipped applicator or swabs
- Safety pin

#### JP care Instructions



- 1) Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before touching drain.
- 2) Gather your supplies. They do not have to be sterile.
- 3) Remove the old dressing. Unpin the drain from your clothing. *(Only when instructed to do so, squeeze (strip) the drain tubing with alcohol swab toward the bulb prior to emptying it as instructed by nurse or provider.)*
- 4) Open the stopper slowly (away from your face). Empty the contents into the measuring container at least twice daily or when drain is about half full. Record the amount.
- 5) Note the color and type of the drainage.
- 6) Squeeze the bulb while it is uncapped. While squeezing, recap the bulb to create suction.
- 7) Pin the bulb drain back to your clothing by the plastic tag to avoid accidental pulling.
- 8) Discard the drainage into the toilet. Rinse and wash the measuring container with soap and water.
- 9) Wash your hands with soap and water

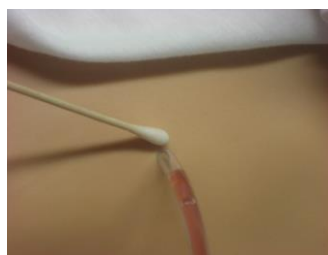


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**Dressing Your Drain Site**



*Starting the day after surgery, change your dressing daily or when it becomes soiled with drainage. (some drains may be left open to air if instructed by provider)*

- 1) Wash your hands with soap and water. Remove old dressing carefully. Rewash hands.
- 2) Clean the skin around the drain tube site with Normal Saline soaked cotton tipped applicator (or gauze) in circular motion. Please be careful not to tug on sutures.
- 3) Check the skin around the drain tube site for redness, tenderness, swelling, warmth, unusual drainage and leakage.
- 4) Place clean, dry gauze over the drain tube insertion site and secure it with tape.
- 5) Wash your hands with soap and water.

*A loose garment should be worn while you have the drain to prevent wound skin irritation.*

**When To Call Your  
Provider**

Notify your provider if:

- 1) If you have a large increase in drainage or it becomes bright red in color.
- 2) Drainage becomes very thick and blocks the tube.
- 3) Any redness, tenderness, swelling or warmth around the insertion site.
- 4) Drainage becomes foul smelling.
- 5) Fluid is leaking from the drain tube insertion site.
- 6) JP/bulb drain is not holding suction.
- 7) Sudden increase in pain that is not relieved by the pain medication ordered by your provider.
- 8) Drain falls out.

**Limitations**

No tub baths or swimming.  
Try not to sleep on the drain.

**Other Resources?**

Please use the "Record of Drain Output" and give to your care provider at the next follow-up visit.