



Drain Care

INSTRUCTIONS

After surgery, you may notice a bulb-like drain connected to tubing coming from your incision. This is a drain, which suctions and collects fluid from your incision area. The drain promotes healing and reduces the chance of infection.

You will need to empty the drain as needed, and record that amount emptied each time on the worksheet provided. Bring this sheet with you to the office the following day when you have the drain removed. To care for the drain and empty it, follow the instructions below:

1. Obtain a measuring cup (with ml's or cc's of measurements). Wash your hands thoroughly before and after handling the drain.
2. Unpin the bottle from your clothing. "Milk" the tubing from where it enters the incisional area all the way down to the bulb. Do this gently, working the tube between your fingers. This will keep the bulb clear of any clots and promote drainage.
3. Remove the rubber stopper from the bottle. Turn the bottle upside down, and squeeze the contents into the measuring cup emptying the bulb as much as possible. Note: to prevent infection, do not let the rubber stopper or top of the bulb touch the measuring cup or any other surface.
4. Now, use one hand to squeeze all the air from the bulb. With the bulb still compressed, use your other hand to replace the rubber stopper. Do this to make sure the drain suction works well. The bulb should remain compressed after the stopper is replaced.
5. Now, pin the drain back to your clothing to prevent pulling the drain out accidentally. Remember to record the amount of drainage in the measuring cup before disposing of the contents.
6. On the day of surgery, you will only need to empty the bulb when it is full and record the output. As soon as you get up the morning after surgery, empty the drain and measure the contents. Then repeat this process every two hours. The nursing staff will contact you to get the drainage output.
7. The decision to remove the drain will be made by the treating physician depending on drain output and type of surgery you had.