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MD FACS

Jackson-Pratt Drain Management

What is a Jackson-Pratt Drain?

The Jackson-Pratt drain, also called a JP Drain, is a collection device used to remove fluid or air from your wound. The drain is used to make sure that your surgical site does not collect the extra fluid the body normally produces after an operation. By draining the fluid from the surgical site, the JP Drain helps your wound to heal.

How does the JP Drain work?

At the end of surgery, Dr. Naidu placed a drainage tube under your skin in the area of your surgery. The JP drain consists of a long drainage tubing with many openings. Attached to the end of the drainage tube is an oval-shaped suction bulb that is about the size and shape of a large lemon. When the suction bulb is squeezed flat, fluid is pulled into the tubing and away from your surgical site. Fluid will slowly accumulate into the suction bulb. The suction bulb will need to be emptied to maintain the suction to drain the fluid away from your incision.

How do I empty the JP Drain?

The nurse at the hospital will review how to empty your drain prior to discharge. Here are the written instructions for you to review when you are at home.

1. Wash your hands. [If you are a family member or healthcare provider, you may want to put on protective gloves.]
2. Unclip the suction bulb from the dressing or clothing.
3. Remove the plastic flip top from the top of the suction bulb.
4. Turn the suction bulb upside down over a measuring cup.
5. Gently squeeze the sides of the suction bulb together and let the fluid flow into the measuring cup.
6. Turn the suction bulb right-side up.
7. Squeeze the sides of the suction bulb together and hold.
8. While you are still squeezing the bulb, close the plastic cap on top of the suction bulb. (This is what creates the suction source for the JP drain to work.)
9. Secure the JP drain to your dressing with a safety pin. (The suction bulb should be lower than you incision.)
10. Measure the amount and pour drainage into the toilet.

11. Wash your hands.
12. Write down the amount of fluid in the measuring cup.

How often will my JP drain need to be emptied?

It is usually emptied two times per day. Remember to empty your JP drainage bulb as instructed and whenever it becomes full or when the bulb has inflated.

What type of drainage can I expect from my JP drain?

The type and amount of post-operative drainage from your surgical incisions depends on many factors. You will be provided with a measuring cup to measure the amount of drainage from your JP drainage bulb. It is measured in 'cc' of fluid. The drainage should decrease gradually and change from a bloody fluid to a straw-color fluid. Contact Dr. Naidu if you notice any sudden change in the type of drainage or if the drainage suddenly stops.

When will my JP drain be removed?

In general, JP drains can remain in place for 4-10 days after surgery or until they drain less than 30cc in 24 hours. Every person is different and it is hard to predict exactly when your drainage tube will be removed. The drain will be removed in the office and will not cause you any pain or discomfort.

What other information do I need to know about the JP drain?

- Keep the drain secured to your dressing or clothing with a safety pin. The drain should be lower than your incisions at all times.
- Empty the drainage bulb as instructed. Pick the same times every day. Measure and record the amount of fluid as instructed.
- Make sure that the plastic cap is secure. If it opens, the suction bulb will inflate and suction will stop. The drainage bulb should remain somewhat flat. If the suction bulb is not flat, the suction is not working.
- Bring your record of the amount of drainage to every office visit.
- Contact Dr. Naidu if the drainage suddenly increases, or if you need to empty your container more than usual.

What should I report immediately to the doctor about the JP Drain?

- Fever, chills and other signs of infection
- Unable to keep the JP bulb flat
- Drains falls out or becomes blocked
- Sudden onset of pain or swelling at the drainage site
- The drainage suddenly stops (the drainage should decrease gradually, but not abruptly)
- The color of the drainage suddenly changes. The drainage should slowly change from red to dark red to straw-colored fluid. Contact Dr. Naidu if the drainage becomes bloody again or changes to milky white.

Record of Drainage

PLEASE BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR POSTOPERATIVE APPOINTMENT.

YOUR DRAINS WILL **NOT** BE REMOVED WITHOUT IT.

Right:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Date							
Amount: AM							
Amount: PM							
Total							

Left:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Date							
Amount: AM							
Amount: PM							
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