

Post Operative Instructions Drain Care Instructions

The goal is to make your surgical experience and recovery as comfortable as possible. Please call us with any questions or concerns.

Please review the following recommendations for post procedure care and the other written and verbal information you have received from your doctor. You play an active and essential role in your recovery process. It is our pleasure to assist you and care for you at any time.

How the drain works:

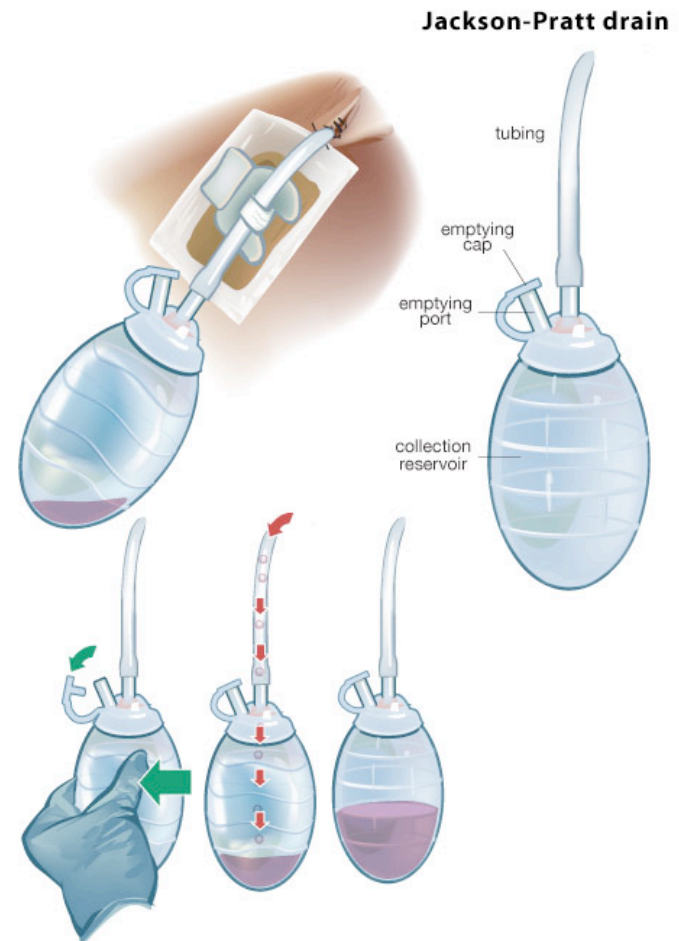
The drain works by negative suction, which is created by the bulb. The section removes fluid from your wound, and helps the wound heal. If fluid accumulates, then complications will occur such as infection, breakdown of your incisions, or contour abnormalities.

How to strip and empty the drain:

The drain should be stripped every 1-2 hour's while you are awake. With one hand you hold the tube of the drain by applying pressure, and with the other, you squeeze the tube and "milk" it away from the body towards the bulb. This motion strips the fluid from the body to the bulb.

How to record the output from your drain:

Hold the bulb in its upright position, open the drainage plug, and allow the bulb to expand. Then gently turn the bulb upside down and empty the fluid into a measuring cup, and squeeze until all the fluid is out. Record the output in cc's on the form provided below each time you do it, and on each drain separately (DO NOT ADD UP THE OUTPUTS OF TWO DRAINS). After, keep the bulb compressed, and place the plug/cap back on without losing the compression on the bulb.



What to Expect:

There is pain around the drain as it comes out of your body. This is normal, and the pain medication should take care of it. There might be fluid that comes out around the drain tube, and this is also normal. Keep the skin around your drain clean and dry, and apply Mupirocin 2% ointment to the skin around the drain site 3-4 times per day.

Empty the Jackson Pratt Bulb



Summary:

- Do not be discouraged by swelling and discoloration. These conditions are a normal part of your procedure and will subside.
- Call Dr. Calva if you experience:
 - Sudden swelling noticeably different from one side compared to the other or increased discoloration.
 - Persistent temperature above 101.5 degrees that is not relieved by Tylenol.

Your recovery and ultimate result is very important to us. Please read this handout carefully and keep it readily accessible as a reference after your surgery

If you have ANY questions or problems not addressed in this handout, please do not hesitate to contact us at our office at (305) 203-3938 during the day, after normal business hours or on weekends. Dr. Daniel Calva's cell phone is (305) 814-9582.