



## **JACKSON-PRATT DRAIN CARE**

After your surgery you will have a drain called a Jackson-Pratt (JP) coming from your incision. The information below will explain the purpose for and care of your drain.

*Purpose of the drain:* To remove body fluid and blood from the surgical area and to prevent swelling at the area. Collections of fluid under your skin could cause discomfort and interfere with healing. It is not unusual for the drain site to be tender and have a small amount of seepage.

**Care of the drain:** Keep the drain pinned to the inside of clothing ideally lower than the drain site. Unpin and re-pin drain when showering or changing clothes. Cleanse area with mild soap, rinse well, and pat dry. Apply an antibiotic ointment around the drain where it exits the skin.

**Emptying:** Unplug cap on bulb, gently turn bulb upside down over measuring cup. Slowly and gently squeeze bulb. Drainage will flow out. (A few clots and a small amount of drainage may remain in the bulb). Drainage may be discarded in the toilet. After emptying, squeeze the bulb to flatten and re-cap. Bulb should remain flat. This indicates the suction is working. As drainage collects again, the bulb will expand. Measure and record the drainage in ml's or cc's. Keep a 24-hour total drainage record daily.

**Stripping:** In order to keep the tubing functioning and clear, it is necessary to milk the tube hourly. If there is a sudden decrease in drainage and an increase in seepage around the drain site, you may need to milk the tubing a lot to unclog the tubing. This is accomplished by gently holding the end of the tubing nearest the body with one hand while taking the other hand and using the thumb and forefinger, gently pinch the tubing while sliding thumb and forefinger toward the bulb. You may need to do this until fluid begins to flow from the tubing to the bulb. (Using liquid soap on your fingers makes this easier.) Squeeze the bulb and re-cap following this. Be sure to call our office with any redness, swelling, increased warmth, unusual appearance of the drainage, fever, worsening pain, or flu-like symptoms.

**Removal:** Call the office and report your drainage totals. This information will determine when to come to the office for drain removal and follow-up. It is not necessary to take pain medicine in anticipation of drain removal, but you may find this helpful.

Be sure to record all drainage and take good care of your drains – it will help prevent post-operative problems.

*Bryn Mazur*  
 AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY  
 DANIEL WESTAWSKI, MD, FACS

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