



INFORMATION REGARDING CARE OF JP DRAINS

Importance of JP Drains:

1. The JP (Jackson-Pratt) Drain is a special tube that helps prevent body fluid from collecting near the site of your surgery.
2. The squeeze bulb at the end of the drain tube creates a gentle suction that helps drain the fluid. Therefore, if the bulb is not squeezed tightly, the fluid will not drain.
3. Fluid which is not drained may be susceptible to infection. Maintaining suction is imperative to prevent this fluid to become stagnant and infected.
4. At first, the fluid will be bloody in color. However, as your wound heals, the fluid changes to light pink, light yellow, or clear and the amount will lessen over time.

Caring for JP Drains:

Please review our website for JP drain commonly asked questions and how to strip drains

<https://www.orseckmd.com/patient-info/> (how to manage drainage tubes at the bottom of the page)

1. You will want to pin the JP drain either to your clothing by using a safety pin through the plastic loop on the top of the bulb, or you can use a lanyard that goes around your neck. This is done to prevent the drain from being pulled and causing discomfort.
2. Depending on how much fluid drains from your surgical site, you will need to empty the bulb every 6 to 12 hours.
3. Steps on Emptying and Recording your output are as follows:
 - a. Wash hand thoroughly.
 - b. Remove plug from bulb
 - c. Pour fluid from inside the bulb into a measuring cup
 - d. Squeeze the bulb flat. While the bulb is flat, put the plug back into the bulb. The bulb should remain flat after it is plugged in so that the vacuum suction can restart.
 - e. Measure the amount of fluid you collected and record it on your flow sheet, including the date and time.
 - f. You may then discard the fluid in the toilet/sink and rewash hands.
4. In order to prevent blockages or clots in the drain, **we recommend stripping your drains at least 2-3 times/day**. It will be helpful to do it just before you empty your drain.
5. Steps on "Stripping" Drain are as follows:
 - a. Using one hand, firmly hold the tubing near the insertion site (close to your skin). This will prevent the drain from being pulled out while you are stripping it.

- b. Apply hand sanitizer to index finger and thumb of other hand and using those two fingers squeeze the tubing just below the first hand. You should squeeze firmly enough that the tubing becomes flat.
 - c. As you are squeezing, slide your index finger and thumb down the tube until you reach the bulb.
 - d. Repeat process. This will help to prevent the tubing from being clotted off.
6. The skin around the JP drain site may become red and irritated. This is common. You should however monitor for signs and symptoms of infection near your JP drain site. Signs of infection include foul smelling or pus- like discharge from the drainage site in addition to significant redness, warmth and increased tenderness. Please notify our office if you experience these symptoms.
7. You may want to keep gauze around the drainage tube, in the event there is some small drainage from around the tube, which is normal.
8. If you JP drain stops holding suction, Apply gauze and tape over the JP drain exit site at the skin to prevent any pulling of the drain and manually compress the bulb every hour while awake.

Removal of JP Drains:

1. Remember, drains will be ready for removal at different times during the healing process. The JP drains will be removed once the drainage in each individual tube is less than 25cc for a 24 hour period for 2 consecutive days. Once a drain is ready for removal, call our office and set up an appointment with the nurse to have it removed. Please note, once a drain is removed there may be some drainage from that site for the next several days until it heals in and this normal. You will want to apply Vaseline and a Band-Aid to site daily until it has healed. After a JP drain is removed, please wait 24 hours before showering.
2. If you have multiple JP drains in one area (for example: two drains placed in your abdomen), we will not remove both drains at the same time, regardless of output. The last remaining drain must be less than 15cc x 24 hours for 2 consecutive days.
3. **When your drain is ready for removal, you will need to call our office at 864-560-6717 to set up an appointment for removal**
 - **Please remember to bring your record sheet with you to your visit**
 - **We cannot accommodate walk-in appointments, please call to schedule your appointment for removal**
4. It is common for the JP drain site to drain a small amount of fluid from that area for the next few days while healing. This is normal.
5. Once drain is removed, continue to monitor the area for the next several days. If you notice increased swelling, pressure, warmth, fevers, and/or chills, you will want to notify our office immediately.