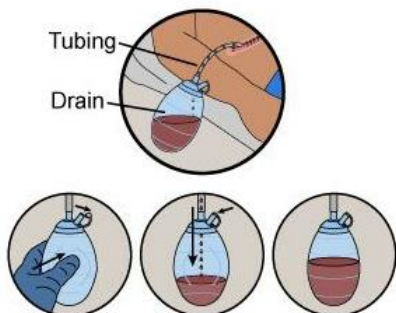


Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drain Care

Jackson-Pratt Drain



Img Credit: Lippincott Advisor

The Jackson-Pratt (JP) tube drains fluid from your surgical area, helping prevent swelling and reducing the risk for infection.

The tube is held in place by a few stitches and *may* be covered with a dry dressing. The squeeze bulb at the end of the drain tube creates a gentle suction.

The drain will be removed when you no longer need it – this is usually done 1 week post-operatively but will be determined by the nurse at the 1 -week appointment. They may stay in longer.

- ✗ Do **not** allow drainage tubing to kink or twist
- ✗ Do **not** squeeze bulb if the plug is in place
- ✗ Do **not** pull on tubing
- ✗ Do **not** sleep on the same side as the tube - if you have 2 tubes, sleep on your back

Caring for your JP Drain at Home

- ✓ Secure the tube and bulb inside your clothing with a safety pin, a specialty drain strap equivalent. This helps the tube from being pulled out accidentally.
- ✓ Empty the bulb(s) **at least twice a day**, and more often if the bulb(s) fill up faster. **The bulb should be emptied when it is halfway full:**
 1. Wash hands and put on gloves (if applicable).
 2. Unpin drain from clothing.
 3. Lift the drainage plug on the bulb to open it.
 4. Hold bulb upside down over a measuring container. Make sure the bulb is lower than the wound when draining to prevent drainage from flowing back into the wound. Drain the fluid into a measuring cup.
 5. Gently squeeze the bulb until it is empty. Make sure the spout of the bulb does not touch the measuring container (this prevents the spread of germs onto or into the drain).
 6. Press/squeeze the center of the bulb to get the air out.
 7. Collapse the bulb, Hold the compressed bulb with one hand and plug it with the other hand.
The bulb should stay compressed until it starts to fill with fluid.
 8. Re-pin drain to clothing.
 9. Note the amount of drainage fluid and then flush the fluid down the toilet. It is normal to see small particles of tissue in the drainage fluid.
 10. Wash and dry your hands.



Img Credit: mskcc.org

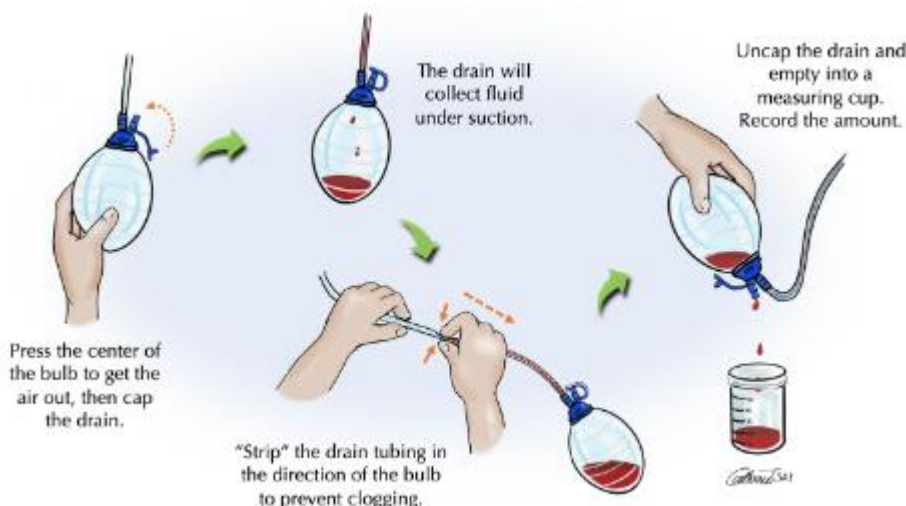
Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drain Care

11. Record the date, time, and amount of fluid collected each time you empty the drain. You'll share this information with your nurse at your next visit.

- You can use the paper log at the end of this document or use the **DrainIQ** app on your phone/iPad. The app can be downloaded for free at [Apple App Store](#).

In some cases, your doctor may instruct you to "strip" or "milk" the tube. "Stripping/milking" the tube helps keep thick drainage from blocking the tube. Perform this if the drain output suddenly stops or if there is leakage of fluid at the drain insertion site.

Stripping the tube



- Hold the tubing where it leaves the skin with one hand. This keeps it from pulling on the skin.
- Pinch the tubing with the thumb and index finger of your other hand.
- Slowly and firmly pull your thumb and index finger down the tubing. If the pulling hurts or feels like it is coming out of the skin, STOP. Begin again more gently.

Watch a video on Stripping the Tube – Click link below or scan QR Code:

[How to Care for Your Jackson-Pratt Drain](#)



Call your doctor immediately if you have any of the following:

- ✓ New or increased pain around the tube
- ✓ Redness, warmth, swelling, or unusual drainage around the wound(s) or tube(s)
- ✓ Bright red or excessive drainage from the incision or in the drain(s)
- ✓ Drainage that is foul-smelling
- ✓ Fever over 101°F
- ✓ Fluid leaking around the tube.
- ✓ Stitches become loose.
- ✓ Tube or bulb falls off or breaks.
- ✓ Drain is unable to hold suction.
- ✓ A sudden increase (more than 30mL) or stoppage in the amount of drainage.

Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drain Care

[illegible]

Contact the clinic if you have questions:

Plastic surgery nurse line (M-F 8am-4:30pm): 858-966-4013, option 4

On-call plastic surgeon (after hours, holidays, weekends): 858-966-1700, option 0 and ask the operator to page the on-call plastic surgeon.

Send a photo through MyChart of any areas of concern