

CARING FOR YOUR JACKSON-PRATT DRAIN

What is a Jackson-Pratt drain?

A Jackson-Pratt (JP) drain is used to remove fluids that collect in your body after surgery. Removing the fluids helps heal your incision.

There are two parts to the JP drain — a thin rubber tube and a soft round squeeze bulb. One end of the rubber tube is placed in the area where body fluids can collect. The other end is connected to the squeeze bulb.



How does the JP drain work?

The JP drain bulb removes fluids by creating suction in the tube. To produce suction, the bulb is opened to air, pressed flat and then closed to air. This pulls fluid out from the area where the drain is placed and into the rubber tubing. The fluid then travels through the tubing and into the bulb of the JP drain. As the JP drain bulb fills with fluid, it goes back to its round shape. When the bulb is half full, empty the drain and create suction again.

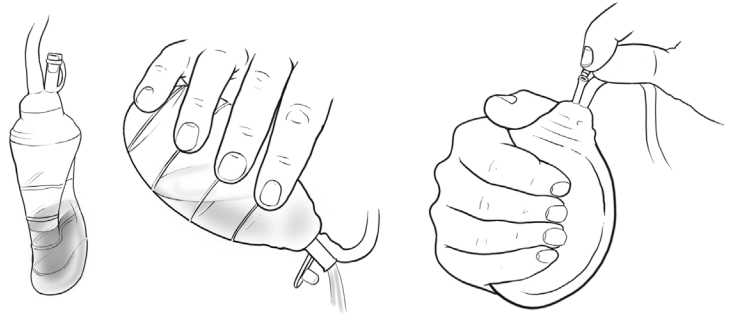
How do I care for the JP drain?

Change the bandage (dressing) at the JP drain site at least once a day to keep it clean and dry. Your healthcare provider will tell you if you need to do this more often.

- Wash your hands, then loosen the old dressing.
- Gently clean the area with a warm soapy washcloth. Start at the point where the drain enters your skin and move outward in circles.
- Let your skin dry, then apply a new, clean bandage.
- There is a tab on the bulb part of the tubing that can be pinned to your bra, under your shirt, or slipped over a belt or piece of elastic. Some patients hide the bulb and tubing in a “fanny pack” or passport pouch.

How do I empty the JP drain?

It is extremely important to keep track of the drainage, empty the fluid, and record the amount on a regular basis. Empty the drain every 8 to 12 hours (2 to 3 times a day) or when the drain is halfway full. This is to maintain the proper suction.



Follow these steps:

- Get a measuring cup to use each time you empty the drain.
- Wash your hands.
- Open the plug on the bulb and pour/squeeze the fluid into the measuring cup. **Do not touch the tip of the spout** in order to keep it as clean as possible.
- While the plug is off, squeeze the bulb as tightly as possible. While squeezing, put the plug into the spout. The bulb should stay compressed after you release your grip.
- Measure the amount of fluid in the measuring cup and record the time, date and amount on your drainage record sheet.
- Flush the fluid down the toilet.
- Rinse your measuring cup and keep it ready for next time.

When should I call my surgeon?

Call your surgeon's office if:

- You have any signs of infection at the site or in the drainage, including more redness or tenderness, or if there is pus or a bad odor.
- The color of the drainage changes to bright red blood or a cloudy yellow liquid.
- The drainage completely stops.
- Your temperature is over 100 degrees F.
- The JP drain comes out. If this happens and your doctor's office is closed, go to the closest emergency department.

When is the JP drain removed?

You will have less fluid draining as your incision heals. In most cases, You will need the JP drain until the amount of drainage is less than 30 milliliters (about 2 tablespoons) per day.

This information is not intended to replace the medical advice of your healthcare provider. Please consult your healthcare provider for advice about a specific medical condition or treatment

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