



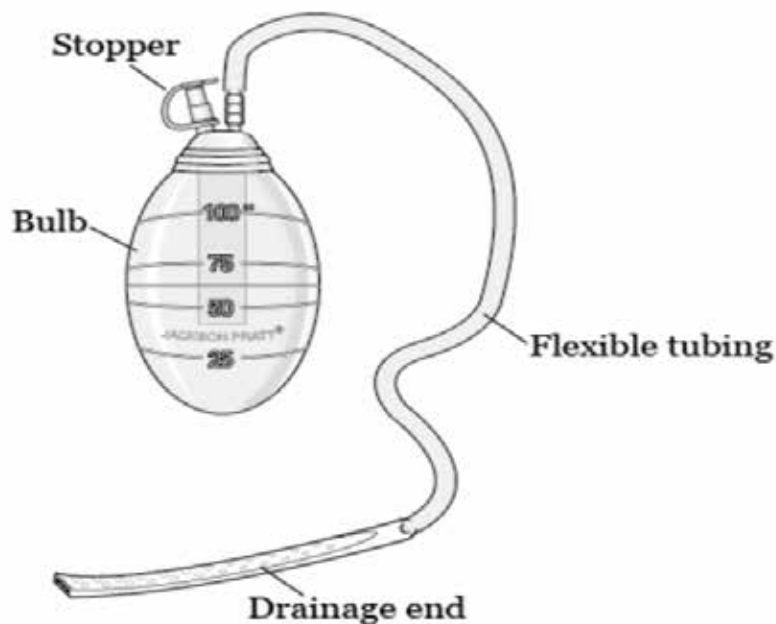
## **Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drain Care**

### **What is a Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drain?**

JP drains are often placed in wounds during surgery to prevent the collection of fluid underneath the incision site. This is a closed, air-tight drainage system which operates by self-suction. The drain(s) promotes healing by keeping excess pressure off the incision and decreasing the risk of infection.

The drain is sutured (stitched) in place at the site of insertion to promote stability. Clots in the tubing are expected and normal as long as they do not interfere with the drainage collection. The drain is left in place for about a week or so. Your doctor will advise you when to come in for removal. The fluid which collects in the bulb is normally very red at first, changing to more orange or straw-colored the longer it is in place.

## **Jackson-Pratt Drain**





## How to Empty the Drain

### Empty the drain bulb twice a day, or when full.

1. Wash your hands, then remove the stopper from the pouring spout. Try to avoid touching the inside of the stopper or the spout opening.
2. Pour the fluid into a measuring device, like a liquid measuring cup that has ml graduated measurement lines. You may squeeze the bulb gently to assist in emptying the bulb.
3. Squeeze or compress the bulb firmly with your hands and reinsert the stopper into the spout, while keeping the bulb compressed. The self-suction has now been re-established.
4. Measure and record the drainage in “cc” or “ml” or “oz”. Do this once or twice a day, usually when you wake up and before going to bed. However, the bulb should be emptied whenever it appears half full or halfway expanded.
5. Flush the fluid down the toilet or sink and wash your hands.

### Call your R.N. if:

- You develop a persistent fever over 100.5°F
- There is increased redness around the tubing
- The bulb does not stay compressed
- There is a foul odor
- The fluid is yellow or green and cloudy
- There is severe pain at the incision site
- There is swelling at the incision site
- There is a great deal of drainage around the drain insertion site
- The tubing is dislodged or comes out

### Indications for when you would need to ‘milk’ or ‘strip’ the Jackson-Pratt drain:

1. There is no drainage.
2. You see clots in the tubing.
3. There is swelling at the site of incision.
4. You notice significantly decreased output.

### Instructions for how to ‘milk’ or ‘strip’ the Jackson-Pratt drain:

1. Use both hands to prevent pulling the tube out of the body.
2. Grip tubing above the site to be milked, holding one hand close to the skin to keep the tube stable.
3. With your other hand, milk the tubing towards the bulb until clot is released into the reservoir. You can use a small amount of lotion or an alcohol prep pad to lubricate the tube.



**Tube site care instructions—complete daily** (starting the day after insertion):

- ☐ Wash hands with antibacterial soap and water.
- ☐ Remove dressing 24 hours after surgery.
- ☐ Some drainage around the site is normal. It is important to keep your skin around the tube clean and dry.
- ☐ To remove drainage, crust or blood from the skin and on/around the tube, use a solution of half hydrogen peroxide, half water. Using a Q-tip dipped in the solution, swab once a day and as needed. Cleanse in a spiral pattern, beginning at the tube and moving outward. Gentle manipulation of the tube is not harmful, but be careful not to push or pull tube out of position. Then, clean the area and surrounding skin with water and antibacterial soap (unless your skin is sensitive). Rinse and pat dry.
- ☐ Place a 4x4 gauze or split gauze drain sponge (see below) around the tube to protect the skin. You will need to cut the 4X4 gauze as they do not come pre-cut. Secure the open end with tape.

**When should I call my doctor?**

- ☐ Signs and symptoms for infection
  - Chills or temperature over 100.5
  - Redness, swelling, increased pain or foul-smelling drainage around the tube
- ☐ Severe, unresolved abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting



## DRAIN OUTPUT DOCUMENTATION

Please write down date, time and amount of output.

[illegible]