Lexington
Plastic Surgery

JP Drain Instructions

What is a Jackson-Pratt drain and how does it work? A Jackson-Pratt (JP) drain is used to remove fluids that build up in an area of your body after surgery. The JP drain is a bulb-shaped device connected to a tube. One end of the tube is placed inside you during surgery. The other end comes out through your skin. The bulb is connected to this end. You have a stitch to hold the tube in place. The JP drain removes fluids by creating suction in the tube. The bulb is squeezed flat and connected to the tube that sticks out of your body. The bulb expands as it fills with fluid.

How do I empty the JP drain? Wash your hands with soap and water. "Strip" the drain as demonstrated in the office. Remove the plug from the bulb. Note the amount of fluid in the bulb. Write down how much fluid you empty from the JP drain and the date and time you collected it. Squeeze the bulb flat and put the plug back in. The bulb should stay flat until it starts to fill with fluid again. Flush the fluid down the toilet. Wash your hands.

When will my JP drain be removed? The amount of fluid that you drain will decrease as your wound heals. The JP drain is usually removed when less than 30 milliliters (2 tablespoons) is collected in 24 hours. Bring your drain log to every appointment.

Please call if you think your JP drain is blocked, if your drain suddenly stops draining fluid, you have a fever greater than 101.5 F, you have increased swelling, pain and redness around the site, your JP breaks or comes out, or you have yellow to brown drainage that smells bad.

DATE/ TIME/ AMOUNT	LEFT	RIGHT

DATE/ TIME/ AMOUNT	LEFT	RIGHT