

Patient Education Sheet

Jackson Pratt Drain Care: Patient Discharge Instructions

What is a Jackson Pratt Drain?

A Jackson Pratt Drain, or JP Drain, is also called a bulb syringe drain. A drain is a thin rubber tube that is put into your skin to drain fluid from around an incision (cut or wound). A JP Drain has a soft squeeze bulb at the end of plastic tubing. This kind of drain may be in your incision from 24 hours to several weeks after surgery. This drain is taken out when the incision stops draining.

Why do I need a JP Drain?

The squeeze bulb at the end of the drain tube creates a gentle suction. This helps to get the fluid out of your incision faster. Surgeons put a JP drain in a wound when a large amount of drainage is expected. A JP drain helps your incision heal faster. It may also help to prevent infection.

How do I Empty the JP Drain?

You or your family member will need to empty the JP Drain a few times each day. Usually you empty the drain when it is half full, but follow your surgeon's instructions closely.

Emptying the Bulb:

1. Wash hands and put on gloves.
2. Unclip or unpin drain from clothing.
3. Unplug the drainage plug on bulb.



4. Hold bulb upside down over a measuring container. Make sure bulb is lower than the wound when draining to prevent drainage from flowing back into wound.



5. Gently squeeze the bulb until it is empty. Make sure spout of bulb does not touch the measuring container to prevent the spread of germs onto or into the drain.
6. Press the center of the bulb to get air out
7. When the bulb is collapsed, wipe spout and plug with alcohol, then put plug back into drain hole. Hold compressed bulb with one hand, wipe spout with alcohol, and plug with other hand.



8. Reclip or pin drain to clothing below the level of your incision.

