

Jackson-Pratt Drain

Postoperative instructions

The Jackson-Pratt drain evacuates fluid from your wound.

Checking the drain

- The first day, check the drain a least every four hours. Empty the drain if it is half full of fluid.
- The second day, empty the drain every eight to twelve hours.
- The normal colour of the liquid can range from dark red to pink, yellow or clear.

Emptying the drain

- Each time you empty the bulb for the first 7 days, write down the amount of fluid on a sheet of paper. Bring this sheet with you to your next appointment.



- If the bulb is full of fluid, empty it into the sink.
- After emptying the bulb, put the cap back on while pressing the bulb to ensure continuous suction.

If the bulb is completely round, there is no suction and the drain is not able to work properly.

- If the bulb is full of air, evacuate the air by squeezing the bulb and put the cap back on.

Keeping the drain in place

- A safety pin is used to keep the drain attaches to your clothes.
- The drain must be lower than the insertion site to ensure better flow.

Call your doctor or visit your nearest Emergency Department if:

- you have redness or swelling where the drain enters your skin
- you feel pain that is not controlled by pain medication
- you see holes or cracks in the tubing or bulb of the drain
- the fluid removed by the JP drain is cloudy, pus- coloured or foul-smelling
- you have fever and chills
- the drain starts filling up very quickly with bright red blood
- the drain stitches break off and/or
- the drain comes out