

RICHMOND PLASTIC SURGEONS

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804-285-4115

JP DRAIN INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose: You have had surgery during which a Jackson-Pratt drain, or JP drain, has been placed. A JP drain is a rubber tube which goes under the skin and drains excess fluid during the healing process so that this fluid does not accumulate. There is a one-way valve which allows the fluid to collect in the bulb on the end of the drain. The drain is usually held in place by a single stitch. The color of the drainage can range from reddish to pink to straw-colored.

Care of the drain: Caring for the JP drain is easy. First, protect the drain so that it does not get pulled inadvertently. You may fasten it to your clothing with a safety pin through the floppy tag on the bulb. DO NOT place a pin through either the drain tubing or the bulb itself. The drain works by maintaining a constant low pressure of suction when the bulb is in the collapsed (squeezed in) position. If the bulb will not maintain this collapsed position when it is recapped, please call the office, as the drain may not be working properly.

Measuring the drainage: Grasp the bulb in one hand and remove the cap with the other hand. This will cause the bulb to relax into a round shape. Holding the open end over a specimen cup, squirt the fluid into the cup by squeezing the bulb. Once the bulb is empty, squeeze it in (collapse it) with one hand, and replace the cap with your other hand. Then holding the measuring cup level, note how much fluid there is (in milliliters, mL), and record this number on the chart below. Discard the fluid in the toilet (or sink) and rinse out the specimen cup. Note: your specimen cup may be in cubic centimeters (cc). 1 cc = 1 mL.

Removal: The JP drain will be removed in the office when the daily drainage is low enough. You may be asked to call the office with your measuring totals to determine if the drain(s) is (are) ready to be removed. Removal involves minimal discomfort without the need for anesthesia. The drain site in the skin heals on its own once the drain is removed without any further stitches. Bring this drainage log with you to the office.

Showering: Dr. Hubert may give you permission to shower while you have one or more JP drains. Just let the water run over the drain sites and then pat them dry when you are done. Some patients like to place a long string necklace around their necks during showers to which they can safety pin the tag on the bulb to prevent it from dangling. DO NOT take a tub bath, go swimming (pool/river/lake/ocean), or otherwise submerge your body in water before all JP drains have been removed and you are released to swim.

Things to look out for: Please call the office immediately (**804-285-4115**) if you notice:

- Sudden bright or dark red bleeding into the bulb or around the drain site in the skin
- Dislodgment of the JP drain or if the drain falls out
- Spreading redness around the drain site in the skin
- Cloudy or foul-smelling drainage in the bulb or around the drain site
- Fever, shaking chills, excessive swelling, pain or discomfort
- Any other concerns or questions

Date										
JP #1	AM									
	PM									
Daily Total										
JP #2	AM									
	PM									
Daily Total										