

Jackson-Pratt Drain Postoperative Care Head and Neck Surgical Oncology

Home Care

Hand Hygiene

When you are discharged home with your JP drain/drains it is vitally important to utilize good hand hygiene when caring for your drain insertion sites. This will help prevent infection.

Caring for your Jackson-Pratt Drain

When you leave the hospital, you will care for your Jackson-Pratt drain by:

- Milking or stripping tubing to help move clots
- Emptying your drain twice a day and writing down the amount of drainage on your log sheet
 - If you have more than 1 drain, make sure to measure and write down the drainage of each one separately. Don't add them together
 - You may empty your drain more than twice a day if needed
- Secure the tube to your clothing. This will prevent the tube from being pulled out
- Don't sleep on the same side as the tube if possible.
- **Do not** submerge drain or drain site in a swimming pool or bathtub

Insertion Site Care with Drain

- If drain entry site is dressed with a bio-patch and a Tegaderm (clear film dressing)
 1. Leave dressing in place when at home
 2. Shower with this dressing on and pat area dry
 3. Ensure dressing is completely dry and intact when out of the shower
- If drain entry site is dressed with a Tegaderm only **without** a bio-patch
 1. You will remove dressing to shower.
 2. **Do not** let shower hit drain site directly. Wash site with soap and water. Gently pat area dry.
 3. Ensure drain entry site is completely dry and place a thin layer of bacitracin ointment around the site.

- **Do not** use any ointment or cream over the incision except for bacitracin.
- 4. A dressing does not need to be replaced unless it is leaking or for comfort to keep drain from pulling. If you choose to use a dressing, change it daily.
- 5. Check drain insertion site daily for: tenderness, swelling, pus, warmth, and redness. These signs and symptoms may indicate that you have an infection.

Insertion Site Care after Drain Removal

You will be instructed to contact your doctor's office when your drain output is less than 30 mL over a 24 hour period. You will have your drain removed in clinic by one of the Head and Neck Surgical Oncology registered nurses or medical assistants. **Please** bring your drainage log sheet with you to clinic for your records. Your drain insertion site will still need care when the drain is removed. Instructions for site care after drain removal are the same as described above in **Insertion Site Care with Drain**. Bacitracin will be used on the drain site for the first 3-4 days and then Vaseline will be used for the remainder of the time that the site is healing. The drain site should close within 7-14 days. Check drain insertion site daily for infection until healed: tenderness, swelling, pus, warmth, and redness.

Special Instructions

- You may feel some burning and pulling from the stitch that holds the tube in place.
- It is normal to have dark bloody or pink-tinged drainage
- Call your doctor or nurse during business hours if:
 - Drainage is less than 30 mL in a 24 hour period
 - Drainage has increased to more than 100 mL in a 24 hour period
 - You can't compress the bulb of the drain- it won't stay suctioned
 - If the tube falls out or gets pulled out of the insertion site:
 - Clean area and cover with gauze and a clean dressing. Please keep drain in a bag, so we can ensure the entire drain was removed intact.
 - If your drain gets partially pulled out, do not try to push it back into your neck.
 - If fluid is leaking around drain site but not into the bulb:
 - Place ointment around the drain opening. This may help produce a seal around the drain tube.
 - If the drain site continues to leak, please place gauze around drain site to catch fluid and call clinic.

Patient Education



- Call your doctor immediately if you're having any of the following symptoms:
 - Tenderness, swelling, pus, warmth, redness, or pressure around the drain insertion site
 - Temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher

Follow-up Care

Call your doctor or nurse when the drain output is less than 30 mL in a 24 hour period. Please remember to bring your drainage log sheet for the nurse. Return for your follow-up appointment with your surgeon as scheduled.

Emergency Center

In case of any emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency center. *For non-emergencies during business hours, call our triage line at 904-202-7300 option 3.*

Reviewed 3/30/2020

