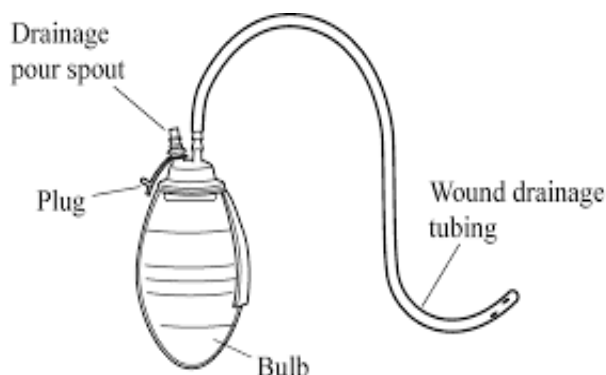


# Jackson Pratt Drain



## What is a JP (Jackson Pratt) Drain?

A JP drain is a Teflon suction device with the drain inside your body. The drain is connected to clear plastic tubing that is usually sutured to the skin where it leaves your body. The tubing connects to a bulb reservoir. The bulb, when squeezed empty, applies constant suction and pulls excess fluid out of the body. The drain is removed when the excess fluid has stopped draining.

## What You Will Need to Care for Your Drain

- The measuring cup given to you at discharge
- A recording sheet (included on last page)

## Caring for Your Drain

1. This is a *clean* procedure; supplies do not need to be sterile. You **must wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water before and after drain care.**
2. Empty the bulb at least 3 times per day - more often if needed.
3. **Milking or stripping the tube:**
  - Milk the tube 2 times a day and whenever it is not draining properly or becomes clogged.
  - Gently squeeze the tubing at the clot to loosen it.
  - Grip the drain with one hand, close to where it comes out of your body.
  - Start where the drain is nearest your body. Use fingers on your free hand to gently squeeze the tube as you run down length of the tube toward the drainage bulb.
  - Liquid soap or hand sanitizer helps your fingers glide easily over the tubing.
4. **Empty the drain (after milking)**
  - Pull the stopper out of the bulb and empty the drainage into the measuring cup.
  - Record the amount of fluid on your record sheet. Have more than 1 drain? Record each separately.
  - Note the color of the drainage – pink or yellow is normal. **If it looks like milk, call your surgeon immediately or go to the nearest hospital ER.**

*Continued on next page*

- There may be white or red strands in the drainage – this is normal.
- After recording the drainage, dispose of it in the toilet or rinse it down a sink.

**5. Re-establish suction**

- Squeeze the bulb in the palm of your hand until the inside walls of the drain touch.
- While maintaining pressure, replace the plug.
- Slowly release your grip to re-establish suction.
- The bulb should remain somewhat flat. It should not be fully inflated. If the bulb is not flat, the suction is not working.

**Call the Doctor if...**

- the drainage stops or changes colors suddenly (it should decrease gradually, and change from red to straw color)
- the drainage becomes bloody again or changes to a milky white fluid
- redness or swelling around the insertion site of the drain increases
- you cannot re-establish suction in the system

**Record Your Drainage    Start Date \_\_\_\_\_**

Day	Amount of Drainage & Color								
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									