

Jeffrey J. Smith, M.D.

F.A.C.O.G., F.A.C.S.
Gynecologic Oncology & Gynecologic Surgery

J.P. Drain

I. Introduction

A J.P. (Jackson-Pratt) drain is a small tube used to draw fluid from an internal body cavity to the surface. This is to prevent an accumulation of fluid that may become infected or cause pressure in the surgical site.

II. Instructions

If you go home with a J.P. drain, please follow these directions for care at home.

1. Strip the drain(s) three to four (3-4) times a day.
To strip the drain: Hold the tube at the exit site (close to the skin [A]) with one hand, grasp the tube between the index finger and thumb, squeezing tightly, pull down the length of the tube.
2. Empty the bulb twice a day, keeping an accurate record of fluid accumulation. To create suction in the bulb after draining fluid, squeeze all of the air out of the bulb, then plug the valve (B). The bulb should be compressed completely.
3. To eliminate tension on the drain, pin the bulb (through the loop [C]) to clothing up around your waist or place bulb in a loose pocket, keeping the bulb below the level of the exit site.
4. Place gauze around the J.P. site. Keep clean and dry. Change as necessary. You may shower while you have a J.P. drain (as long as you have no other restrictions). Leave gauze in place during shower, remove and replace with clean, dry gauze after shower.

III. When to notify the Doctor's Office

1. If there is excessive redness or pain at the J.P. site.
2. If drainage has a foul odor or unusual color.
3. If you have a fever of 101 F or greater.
4. If the tube has been pulled loose or the bulb comes off the tube.
5. If any other problems or questions arise.

