

## *Greenwich Hospital*

### **What is a Jackson Pratt Drain?**

#### **PATIENT/FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET**

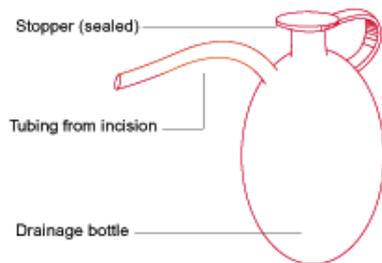
*The following handout reviews how to care for and empty your Jackson Pratt drain. Your nurse or doctor will review this procedure with you prior to you caring for your drain independently.*

### **What is a Jackson Pratt Drain?**

A Jackson Pratt Drain, or JP drain, is a type of surgical drain with a soft squeeze bulb or drainage bottle at the end of a thin rubber tube. The tube is placed under your skin and the bulb is squeezed to create a suction to remove blood or other fluids that may collect at the surgical site. The drain remains in place from 24 hours up to sometimes several weeks. You may be discharged home with the drain in place. It is taken out by the surgeon when the surgical area stops draining.

### **How do I care for the JP drain?**

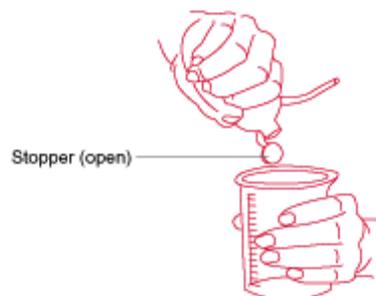
1. Wash your hands
2. Strip or “milk” drainage tubing going from the exit site out of your body toward the bulb.
  - a. Beginning at the exit site, hold drainage tubing with one hand and with the other hand stretch and release tubing an inch at a time, while moving downward, with both hands, toward the bulb.
  - b. Do this 2 to 3 times before emptying the bulb.
3. Remove the stopper from the bulb’s spout or “drainage port.”



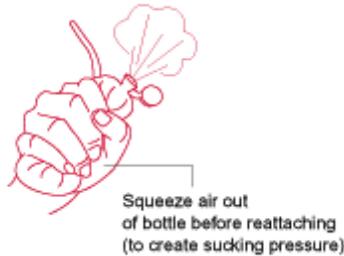
Source: <http://breastcarecenter.his.ucsf.edu/jpdraains.html>

Retrieved February 2005

4. Pour drainage into the measuring cup provided by your nurse.



5. Flatten/squeeze the bulb to create a vacuum and replace the stopper from the drainage port before letting go of the bulb. The vacuum creates suction to draw out the fluids from under you skin.



6. Empty the bulb 3 times a day or as often as needed if it is filling up before 8 hours.
7. Record the date, time and amount of drainage each time the bulb is emptied (output). If you have more than one drain, record the amounts separately.
8. Discard the drainage into the toilet after measuring and then wash your hands.
9. If you notice that the bulb decompresses, open the stopper and attempt to follow step #5 again.
10. Remember to bring your output record with you to your doctor's appointment.

### **What do I report to my doctor?**

- Redness, swelling, and drainage around the area where the tube exits the body.
- Immediate refilling of the bulb with drainage/blood after emptying.
- Inability to flatten the bulb or drainage bottle.
- The tube falls out.
- A fever.

### **What hints may be helpful?**

- It is recommended that you safety pin the drainage bottle to your clothing during the day and to your night clothes during the night. Allow enough slack to prevent the tube from being pulled out.
- Be very careful not to puncture the tubing or the drainage bottle with the safety pin—use the plastic tab on the drain to put the pin through.
- Attach the container below the level of the tube exit site.
- Be very careful with daily activities so that you do not dislodge the tubing.

*For more Patient Fact Sheets, see the Greenwich Hospital web site at [www.greenhosp.org](http://www.greenhosp.org) and Click on Patients & Visitors, then Patient Education*