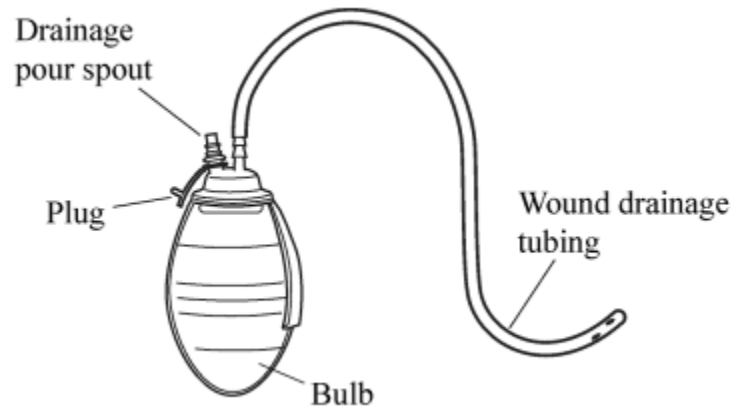


DRAIN INSTRUCTIONS

Your drain works by suction from the compressed bulb. This removes fluid from the surgical site and assists in wound healing. It is important that you record the drainage amount on the sheet provided. You will need to bring these recordings to all post-operative and follow-up visits until all drains are removed.



Care of the drain and drain site:

- The drain should be stripped 2-4 times daily. Use one hand to hold the drain securely next to the insertion site and using the other hand's thumb and forefinger squeeze all the way down the tube to the bulb. Using an alcohol wipe to strip eases this stripping motion.
- Keep drain insertion site clean and dry.

To empty the bulb:

1. Wash your hands
2. Hold the bulb upright (drainage plug on top)
3. Remove the drainage plug to release pressure
4. Allow bulb to fully expand
5. Record the fluid amount in cc's
6. Turn the bulb upside down and GENTLY squeeze the fluid into a cup for disposal

To reactivate suction:

1. Squeeze the bulb to remove the air
2. While squeezing, close drainage plug
3. Release the bulb
4. The bulb will stay collapsed or concave
5. Wash your hands

Important:

- Empty each drain twice daily (every 12 hours, such as 8am/8pm, 9am/9pm etc.) and record the amount of fluid emptied.
- The drain should always have compression. You may empty the fluid more often than twice daily as needed to allow the drain to work properly.
- You may use 4x4 gauze to cover the drain site for comfort.

After drain is removed:

- Apply bacitracin ointment to the drain site for two days following removal.
- Call if the drain site continues to drain more than 48 hours after drain removal.

