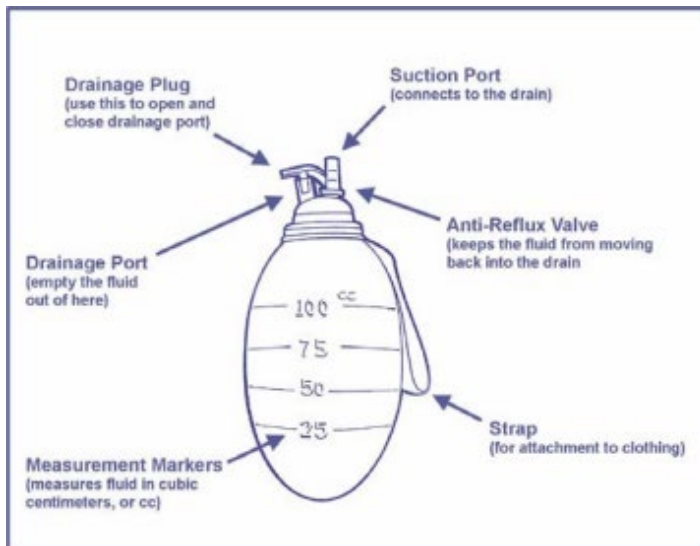


LAKEWOOD RANCH

plastic surgery

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 your next appointment with Dr. Widmyer.

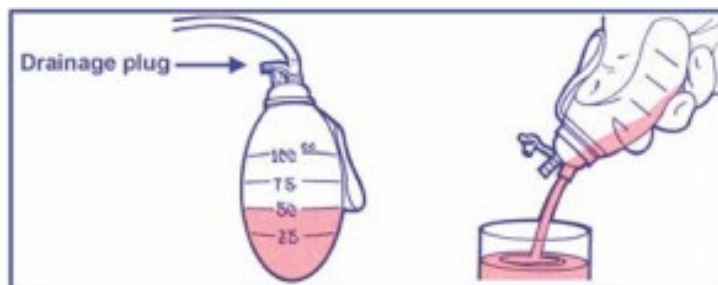


Care of the drain and drain site:

- The drain should be stripped every 4 hours while awake. 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



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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:

- Be sure to empty the bulb before it fills completely, or the drain will not work properly
- Keep accurate records on the amount and quality of fluid
- Be careful to keep the drain tightly in place
- An airtight seal is necessary between both the skin and the drain and the drain and the bulb for the system to work
- Pay attention to how your wound is healing and keep accurate record for Dr. Widmyer

After drain is removed:

1. Apply bacitracin ointment with cotton swab for two days following drain removal
2. Call if the drain site continues to drain more than 48 hours after drain removal

Measure and record the amount of drainage on the provides sheet. It is also helpful to give a brief description of the type of drainage, i.e., dark red, watery pink, clear yellow.

Empty your drains before the bulb becomes completely full. You will probably need to do this 3 times a day during your early post op days. As the days progress, you may measure the drains once a day at the same time.

