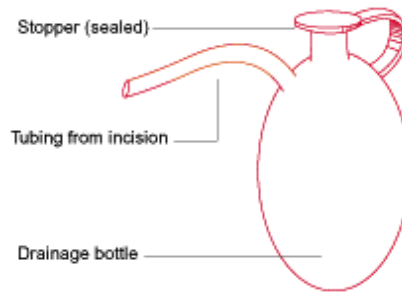


Post-Surgery Drain Care

Your surgeon has put one or more drains (or drainage tubes) made of soft plastic in the area of your incision.



Drains are used in the incision area to stop fluid from building up. Fluid keeps the surgical site from healing.

Each drain has a suction bulb (the “drainage bottle” in the figure above) that will hold 3-4 oz. of fluid. The amount of fluid that collects in the bulb over a 24-hour period will slowly decrease. The fluid color may change from red to reddish- yellow, then to yellowish-white. This depends on where the surgeon puts the drain.

Stripping the Tube

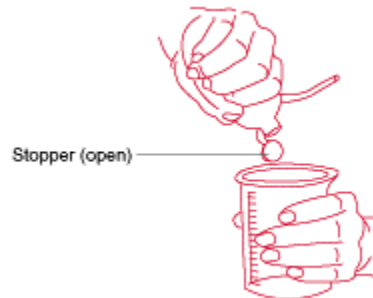
Each tube should be “stripped” if it looks like it is not draining

1. Hold the tubing near where it is inserted into the skin with one hand
2. With the other hand (or a hard object like a pencil), gently squeeze the tubing while moving the hand along the tubing in a downward direction, away from the skin, toward the suction bulb
3. You may need to repeat this a few times to get it to start draining again
4. When stripping the drain, it will sometimes become flat; this is expected and normal
5. Often times there will be pieces of tissue in the drain; this is normal

Draining the Tube

Your surgeon may take out your drain when the fluid is between 20-30cc for a 24-hour period, two days in a row. This is surgeon specific and your drain usually needs to be in for at least a week. If you have two drains in one area, only one drain will be removed at a time.

1. Wash your hands with soap and water and dry them well.
2. Leave the suction bulb connected to the drainage tubing. Remove the drain stopper and squeeze the bulb to empty all drainage into the measuring cup.



3. To restart the suction, gently squeeze all the air from the bulb. Then close the plastic stopper. The bulb should be flat for the drain to work properly.
4. Write the amount of drainage on the Drainage Record Chart. If you have more than one drain, empty and record each drain separately.
5. Look at the drainage to see if it has an unusual color or odor. Look at the drain insertion site to see if there is any tenderness, redness, warmth to touch or pus. These are signs of infection.



6. Empty the fluid in the toilet. Wash the measuring cup with soap and water, dry it and save it for next time. Wash your hands with soap and water and dry them well.
7. Please do not change the dressing around the drain unless you or your VNA was instructed to do so.

Call the Doctor's office if:

- There are problems with the drain, for example, leaking of fluid, clogged tubing
- There is increased redness or pain around the incision
- You have a temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or more
- You run out of antibiotics, if they were prescribed

Drainage Record Chart

DAY 1 Date:					DAY 8 Date:				
	Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4		Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4
AM					AM				
PM					PM				
TOTAL					TOTAL				
DAY 2 Date:					DAY 9 Date:				
	Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4		Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4
AM					AM				
PM					PM				
TOTAL					TOTAL				
DAY 3 Date:					DAY 10 Date:				
	Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4		Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4
AM					AM				
PM					PM				
TOTAL					TOTAL				
DAY 4 Date:					DAY 11 Date:				
	Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4		Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4
AM					AM				
PM					PM				
TOTAL					TOTAL				
DAY 5 Date:					DAY 12 Date:				
	Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4		Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4
AM					AM				
PM					PM				
TOTAL					TOTAL				
DAY 6 Date:					DAY 13 Date:				
	Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4		Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4
AM					AM				
PM					PM				
TOTAL					TOTAL				
DAY 7 Date:					DAY 14 Date:				
	Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4		Drain 1	Drain 2	Drain 3	Drain 4
AM					AM				
PM					PM				
TOTAL					TOTAL				