

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DRAINS

After your operation your body will naturally produce small amounts of fluid and blood as part of the natural healing process. An excess accumulation of this fluid may result in more bruising and prolonged swelling. Therefore, a small drainage tube has been placed in the surgical area and has been connected to a sterile bulb reservoir. This way, any extra fluid will come right out into the bulb.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. You will need an alcohol pad and a medicine cup to discard the fluid.
2. **Do not** disconnect the bulb from the plastic drain tube.
3. Open the safety pin and remove the bulb from the dressing. If you have a bra with drain rings or tabs, remove the bulb from these.
4. Open the bulb by pulling out the plastic cap from the valve opening.
5. Turn the bulb upside down and pour the drainage into the cup. Measure the number of cc's emptied from each drain separately and record on the included chart.
6. Compress the bulb and while it is compressed, replace the plastic cap into the valve opening. This will create a suction system that will continually remove unwanted fluid from the wound.
7. Strip the drain tubing by holding the tubing securely with one hand at the drain suture; and with the other hand, pinch the tubing with the alcohol pad and gently strip toward the bulb.
8. Pin the bulb back onto the dressing.
9. Follow steps 1-8 every 4 for the first 24 hours after surgery, and every 6 hours thereafter. Please bring this record of drain output with you to all your follow up appointment



