

Caring for Your Jackson-Pratt Drain after Thoracic Outlet Surgery

What is a JP Drain?

A Jackson-Pratt (JP) drain is a type of drain that is placed in an incision (cut) during surgery. The JP drain prevents blood and body fluid from collecting near your incision site.

How do I “strip” my Jackson-Pratt drain?

To prevent blood clots from blocking your drain, you will need to “strip” it. To strip means to pinch the tube with your thumb and index finger and slide the alcohol swab down the tube away from your body. Strip your drain **each time** you empty it. These steps will help you move blood clots through the tubing and keep the drainage flowing.

You will need:

- Alcohol swab

Directions:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. With the thumb and index finger of your non-dominant hand, grasp the tubing close to where the drain comes out of your body.
3. With your dominant hand, grasp the tubing below the first hand.
4. Using an alcohol swab, pinch tubing flat and slide fingers down tubing away from your body.
5. Repeat 2 or 3 times. Be sure drainage is flowing into bulbs.
6. Strip tubing every three hours (more often if there are a lot of blood clots).
7. Keep the lid of the bulb closed during stripping.

How do I empty the Jackson-Pratt drain?

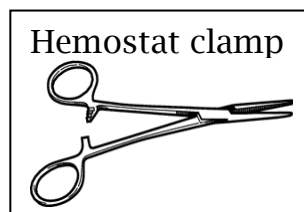
You will need to empty your JP drain **every three hours** or more often if there is a lot of drainage or it feels heavy.

You will need:

- hemostat clamp
- gauze pad
- measuring container
- pen or pencil
- Jackson-Pratt drainage record sheet

Directions:

1. Prepare a clean area to work on and gather your supplies. This can be done in your bathroom or in an area with a dry, uncluttered surface.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water.
3. Place gauze pad around tubing and use a hemostat clamp to close the drain tubing completely.



4. Open small lid on top of bulb.
5. Carefully turn the bulb upside down over the measuring container and gently squeeze to empty the bulb.
6. Squeeze the bulb flat and hold it in this position while replacing small lid.
7. Bulb should be collapsed to ensure a constant gentle suction.
8. Pin bulb to your clothing so the weight will not pull on the insertion site.
9. Remove hemostat clamp on the drain tubing.

10. Measure drainage and record amount each time you empty the bulb.

- Hold container at eye level to read the numbers on the side of the container.
- Read the numbers in the “ml” column.
- Record amount of drainage on chart below.

11. Flush drainage down the toilet and rinse the container with fresh water.

12. Wash your hands.

Jackson Pratt Drainage Chart

	JP Drain #1 Total	JP Drain # 2 Total
Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Reading 3		
Reading 4		
Reading 5		
Reading 6		
Reading 7		
Reading 8		
Reading 9		
Reading 10		
Reading 11		
Reading 12		

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by Michigan Medicine and for which Michigan Medicine does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Bethany Lee-Lehner, RN, MSN Reviewers: Monica
Waidely, RN Susan Young, RN
CVC Control # 998

Patient Education by [Michigan Medicine](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#). Last Revised 6/2017