

## Jackson Pratt (or Blake) Drain Care

### What is a Jackson Pratt (or Blake) Drain

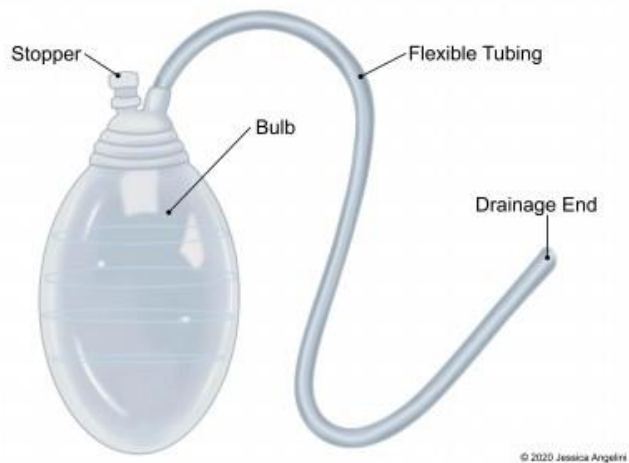
A Jackson Pratt drain (JP drain) or Blake drain is used to remove unwanted fluids that build up in the body. This temporary drain is placed during surgery and is composed of a fluid collector, hollow tube, and egg-shaped bulb.

### Instructions

Change bandages at the JP drain site every day, or as needed, to keep it clean and dry.

Items you will need:

- A clean container
- New gauze pads
- Soap and water
- Plastic trash bag
- Surgical tape
- Clean towel



### Follow these steps to care for your skin around the JP drain entry site:

- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Loosen the tape and gently remove the old bandage. Throw the old bandage into a plastic trash bag.
- Look for any new redness, swelling, or pus at the place where the drain enters your skin. Check for a foul (bad) smell coming from the area. Tell your healthcare team if you see any of these changes. Make sure the stitches that attach the JP drain to your skin are intact.
- Using a clean washcloth and warm soapy water, clean the skin where the drain is entering. Pat dry with a clean towel.
- When the area is dry, put a new bandage around the JP tube site. Use surgical tape to hold it down against your skin; fasten tubing as well.
- Do not let the bulb dangle. Attach the bulb to your clothing or surgical garment using a safety pin as instructed by your healthcare team. Be careful not to pierce the tubing with the pin.
- Wash your hands afterwards.

### When to empty the Jackson Pratt drain:

Check the drain at least every four hours. Empty your JP drain when it fills up half way, or every 8 to 12 hours. After the drain is emptied, the bulb needs to be squeezed. This is done to keep the suction of the JP drain strong enough to pull out more fluid.

**Follow these steps to empty the JP drain:**

- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Remove the stopper plug at one side of the bulb and pour the fluid into a measuring container.
- Squeeze the bulb tightly while the stopper plug is still off. Do not squeeze the bulb if the plug is in place. While the bulb is being squeezed, put the stopper plug back to seal the bulb. If you cannot squeeze it and plug it at the same time, ask someone for help. You may also place the bulb on a hard surface, such as a table. Use your elbow or hand to press down hard on the bulb, and then stick the plug in.
- Measure the amount of fluid that you remove from the JP drain bulb. Write down the amount, color, and the date and time that you collected it. We have provided a chart to record this information.
- Flush the fluid down the toilet. Wash your hands after you are finished.

**Preventing problems with the JP drain:**

- Always keep the bulb lower than the wound; doing so will stop the fluid from going back into your body.
- Do not pull on the tubing; doing so can loosen the stitches holding the drain to your skin, causing the drain to fall out.

**Contact your healthcare team if:**

- You have more swelling or redness where the drain enters your skin.
- You feel more pain in the area of your drain.
- You see holes or cracks in the tubing or bulb or if the drain is leaking.
- The fluid removed by the JP drain is cloudy, or foul-smelling.
- You have a fever of 100.4 or greater.
- The JP drain starts filling up very quickly with bright red blood.
- Your bandages are soaked with blood.
- Your JP drain comes out.

**Removal of the JP drain:**

- Your doctor will let you know when the drain is to be removed.
- The removal of the JP drain takes a few seconds to perform and is generally not painful.

# Jackson Pratt or Blake Drain Record

Please bring to your next appointment!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Surgery \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Comments</u>

**If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.**