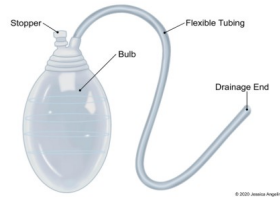


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What is a Jackson Pratt Drain?



A **JP drain** is a flexible tube from your surgical wound into a soft suction bulb:

The **bulb** collects fluid and must be kept **squeezed flat** to create suction.

A **stopper/cap** seals the bulb.

You'll *empty the fluid and re-squeeze the bulb* to restore suction.

Step-by-Step: How to Empty & Compress a JP Drain

1. Wash Your Hands

Use soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds — this protects against infection.

2. Unpin & Position the Drain

Unclip the bulb from clothing and hold the bulb *upright* so fluid won't spill.

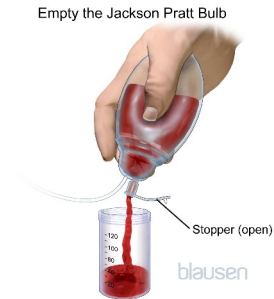
3. “Milk” the Tubing

This helps clear fluid from the tube into the bulb:

Hold the tube near your body so you don't pull the drain.

With your other hand, pinch a section of the tube and slide your fingers toward the bulb. (You can use an alcohol pad or put soap between your fingers to allow it to slide better)

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4. Open & Empty the Bulb

1.

1.1. **Carefully remove the stopper/plug** on the bulb.

1. Turn the bulb *upside down* and **pour the fluid into the measuring cup**.

Avoid touching the opening with your fingers.

5. Measure & Record Output

Write down the *amount* (in mL or cc), and *time*. (Do this twice daily and try to do it around the same time every day. This helps your care team decide when the drain can be removed.



6. Squeeze & Seal (Create Suction)

Squeeze the Bulb and Close the Stopper

1. **Squeeze the bulb completely flat** with your hand.

2. While still squeezed, **replace the stopper/cap** to seal it.

3. The bulb should stay compressed — this creates the *vacuum suction*.

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7. Reattach to Clothing

Pin or clip the bulb below the level of your incision to prevent accidental tugging

8. Wash Your Hands Again

Always wash after touching the drain or measuring fluid.

Additional Tips

Empty the drain when it's about **half-full**, or at least **twice a day**.

You may be shown how to *strip* or “milk” the tube to keep it moving — this prevents clots.

Avoid the drain from **twisting** and **kinking**.

When to Contact Your Provider

Call right away if:

You see **redness, warmth, swelling, or foul odor** around the site, You notice **fever or chills**

Drainage suddenly **increases or stops**

The drain pulls out accidentally