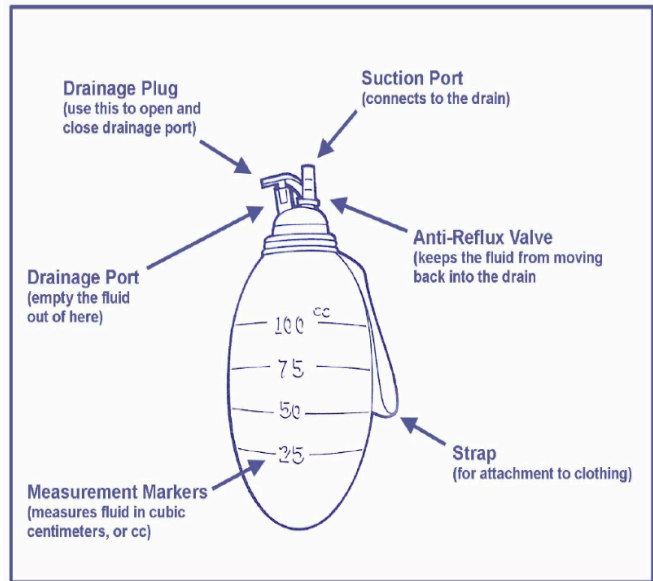


**HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DRAINS
AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

Your drain works by suction from the compressed bulb. This removes fluid from the surgical site and assists in wound healing. Before discharge from the hospital you will be shown how to care for the drain and drain site. It is important that you follow these instructions and record the drainage amount and color on the sheets provided. You will need to bring these recordings to your next appointment with Dr. Beck.



Care of the drain and drain site:

1. The drain should be stripped every 1-2 hours while awake. Use one hand to hold the drain securely next to the insertion site and using the other hand's thumb and forefinger squeeze all the way down the tube to the bulb. Using an alcohol wipe to strip eases this stripping motion.
2. Clean the area around the drain with a cotton swab and peroxide mixture twice daily.
3. Apply antibiotic ointment with a cotton swab.
4. Cover with dressing as instructed by Dr. Beck.

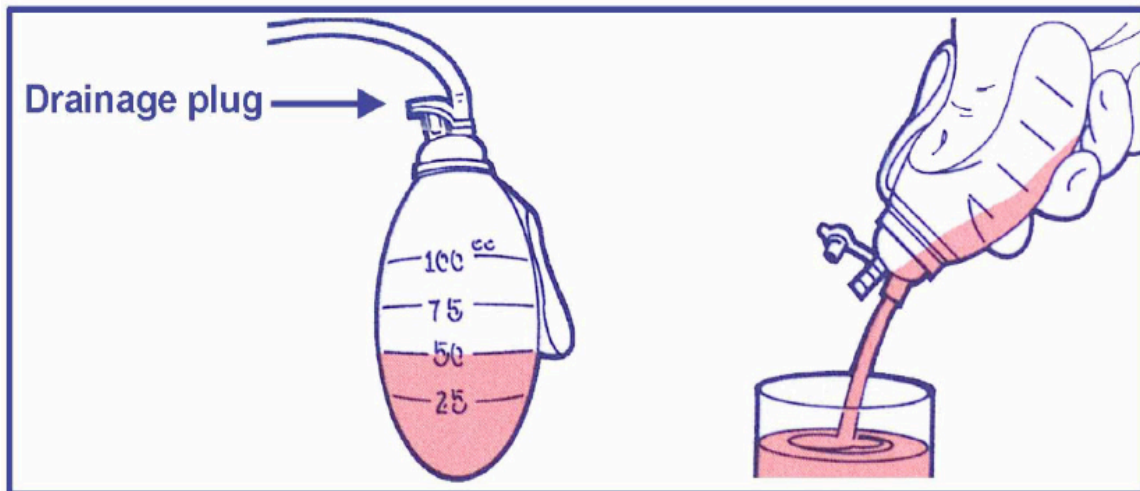
Daniel O. Beck, MD

Dallas Plastic Surgery Institute
www.beckplasticsurgery.com

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DRAINS AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS

To empty the bulb:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Hold the bulb upright (drainage plug on top).
3. Remove the drainage plug to release pressure.
4. Allow bulb to fully expand.
5. Turn the bulb upside down and GENTLY squeeze the fluid in the medicine cup for accurate measurements in cc's (1cc = 1 milliliter).
6. Place the medicine cup on a level counter and record the output (amount and color).



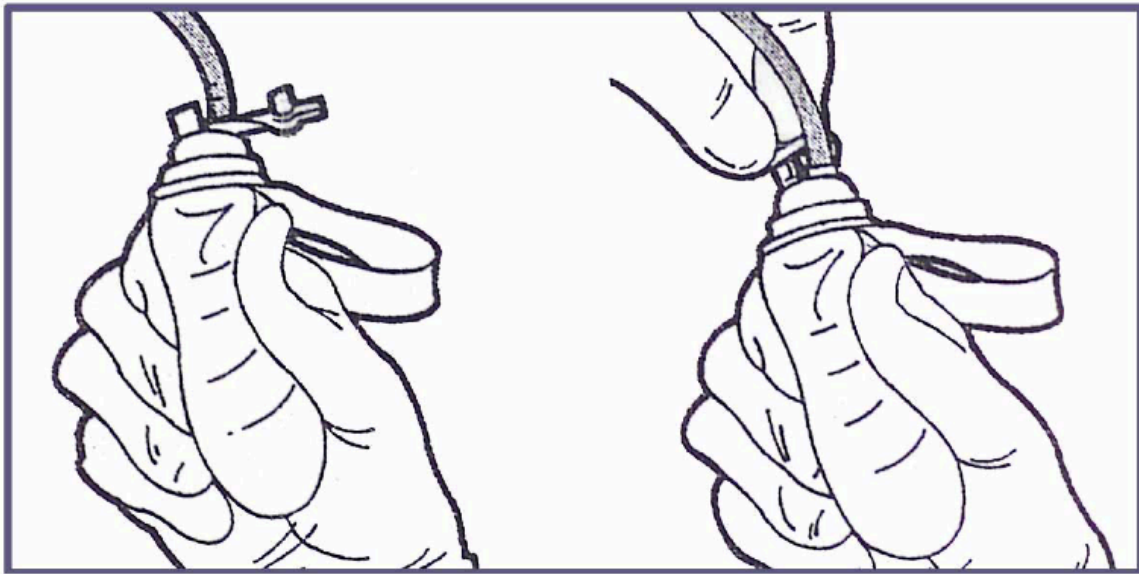
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HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DRAINS AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS

To reactivate suction:

1. Squeeze the bulb to remove the air.
2. While squeezing, close drainage plug.
3. Release the bulb.
4. The bulb will stay collapsed or concave.
5. Wash your hands.



**HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DRAINS
AFTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

Important

- Be sure to empty the bulb before it fills completely or the drain will not work properly.
- Keep accurate records on the amount and quality of fluid.
- Be careful to keep the drain tightly in place.
- An airtight seal is necessary between both the skin and the drain and the drain and the bulb for the system to work properly.
- Pay attention to how your wound is healing and keep accurate record for Dr. Beck.

After drain is removed.

1. You may shower immediately after the drain was removed.
2. Apply antibiotic ointment with a cotton swab for two days following drain removal.
3. Cover the drain site with a bandage for two days.
4. A small amount of continued drainage is normal. Call if the drain site continues to drain for more than 72 hours after drain removal.

Notify Dr. Beck if:

- The drain falls out.
- There is a change in the color of fluid or unusual amounts of fluid.
- The drain becomes clogged.
- You experience redness/increasing discomfort around the site.
- Fluids drain around the drain site instead of into the drain.
- The bulb does not hold suction (stay flat) after reactivating.

