Drain Instructions

The drain is placed during surgery to prevent body fluid from collecting at the surgical site. The drain is made up of tubing and a bulb, it works through suction of the bulb to pull fluid. The bulb can then be emptied and the fluid can be measured.

The fluid will likely appear bloody at the start and may transition to a light pink, yellowish pink, yellow, or clear. The drain will remain in place for at least two weeks and until you reach your fluid goal.

You should strip the tubing of the drain several times per day, the drain will be sutured in place where the tube exits. You should hold firmly at the top of the tube with one hand so as not to pull the drain from its exit site. Then use your other hand to compress the tube and push any fluid and sediment toward the bulb.

Depending on how much fluid is draining from the site you will need to empty your drain every 8 to 12 hours. You will keep track of the amount of drainage each time you empty the bulb. These amounts will be totaled over a 24 hour period.

How to empty the drain:

1. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
2. Pull the plug out of the bulb to release suction.
3. Pour the fluid from the bulb into a measuring cup with cc/mL measurements.
4. Record the amount of fluid collected in the table below.
5. Clean the plug and end of tubing with an alcohol wipe. When replacing the bulb squeeze the bulb flat and plug the release valve to create suction again.
6. Flush the fluid down the toilet.
7. Wash your hands with soap and water.

Possible complications:

- ➔ Call our office if any of these complications occur.
    - A large amount of fluid may collect and cause leakage from the drain site, ensure that the bulb was properly applied with suction.
    - A small clot may develop in the drain tubing, this will appear as a dark stringy lining in the tube. This can prevent drainage. Ensure that you are stripping the drain tubing regularly.
    - An infection may occur at the drain site. Watch for signs and symptoms of infection; increased redness, pain, swelling, fever, or foul-cloudy drainage.

Left Drain	Date	Time	Amount
		AM	
		PM	
		AM	
The drain is now empty and recording for the next 24 hours begins, total _____			

Right Drain	Date	Time	Amount
		AM	
		PM	
		AM	
The drain is now empty and recording for the next 24 hours begins, total _____			