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BLAIR PLASTIC SURGERY

DRAIN INSTRUCTIONS

After your procedure you may have a surgical drain in place. These drains prevent body fluid from collecting near the site of your surgery. The drain will be one of two types:

- A penrose is a rubber tube that drains by gravity onto a gauze pad. If you have this type of drain, you may shower the day following your surgery. You do not need to use any special ointments on this drain site.

- A Jackson Pratt drain pulls the fluid, by suction, into a collection bulb. The bulb fluid needs to be measured by pouring the drainage into a measuring cup.

- This should be measured every **4** hours for the first 24 hours, while awake, and then twice a day until removed.
- If your drain has a clear, cellophane dressing over top of it, do not remove this, even if it gets bloody underneath.
- Do not disconnect the tubing from the bulb, as this is a one-way valve.
- You may not shower until these drains are removed.
- You do not need to use any special ointments on this drain site.

At first the fluid will be bloody. Then, as your wound heals, the fluid changes to light pink, light yellow, or clear. The drains will stay in place until less than 30cc (about 2 tablespoons) of fluid can be collected in a 24 hour period.

Usually, the drains are removed in one week, but may remain longer if the volume of fluid is still high.

Before being discharged, the nurse will show you how to empty the bulb, record the amount of fluid collected, squeeze the bulb flat, re-plug so that the suction works again and review signs of infection.

If a large amount of fluid leaks around the drain site or if a clot develops within the drain tubing, please notify your doctor's office as this could indicate a blockage of the drain.

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