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CARING FOR YOUR JACKSON PRATT DRAINAGE SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet will give you the information you need to care for your Jackson Pratt surgical drainage system after you have been discharged from the hospital. It will review the training you receive from your nurse. The Jackson Pratt is easy to use and once you have been shown how, you will be able to care for it yourself.

The Jackson Pratt system is made up of a soft egg-shaped plastic "bulb" (see Figure 1). At the top of the "bulb" are a catheter and a drainage outlet with stopper. The catheter is inserted near your incision to collect drainage. When the bulb is compressed with the stopper in place, a vacuum is created causing a constant gentle suction, which helps draw

out fluid that would otherwise collect under the incision. To achieve the best healing results, the "bulb" should be compressed at all times except when drainage is being emptied and measured.

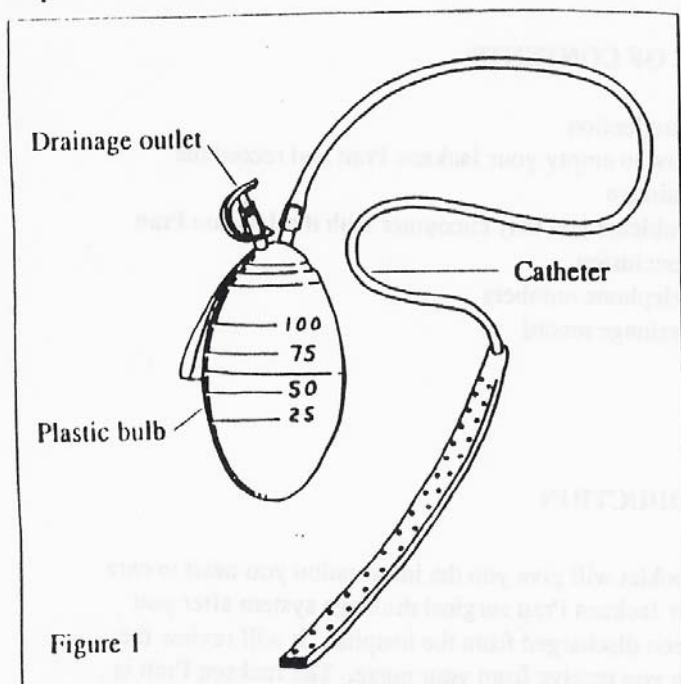


Figure 1

The length of time that your Jackson Pratt stays in place depends upon your surgery and the amount of drainage you are having. Drainage is very individual; some people drain a lot, some only a little. The Jackson Pratt is removed when the drainage has markedly decreased. Your doctor will decide when to remove it. To make this decision, your doctor will need to see your Jackson Pratt Drainage Record (the record is found on the back cover).

Therefore, you must bring this booklet with you when you have follow-up appointments.

Caring for your Jackson Pratt at home will involve:

1. Emptying it two times a day and recording the amount of drainage on the Jackson Pratt Drainage Record (see back cover).
2. Caring for your Jackson Pratt insertion site.
3. Recognizing when there is a problem.

HOW TO EMPTY YOUR JACKSON PRATT AND RECORD THE DRAINAGE

You will need to empty your Jackson Pratt twice a day: in the morning, and in the evening.

Equipment Needed:

1. Measuring container (which your nurse will give you)
2. Jackson Pratt Drainage Record (see back cover)

Steps To Follow:

1. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
2. Unplug the stopper on top of the Jackson Pratt. This will cause the bulb to expand. Do not touch the inside of the stopper or the inner area of the opening.

3. Turn the Jackson Pratt upside down, gently squeeze the bulb, and pour the contents into the measuring container (see Figure 2).

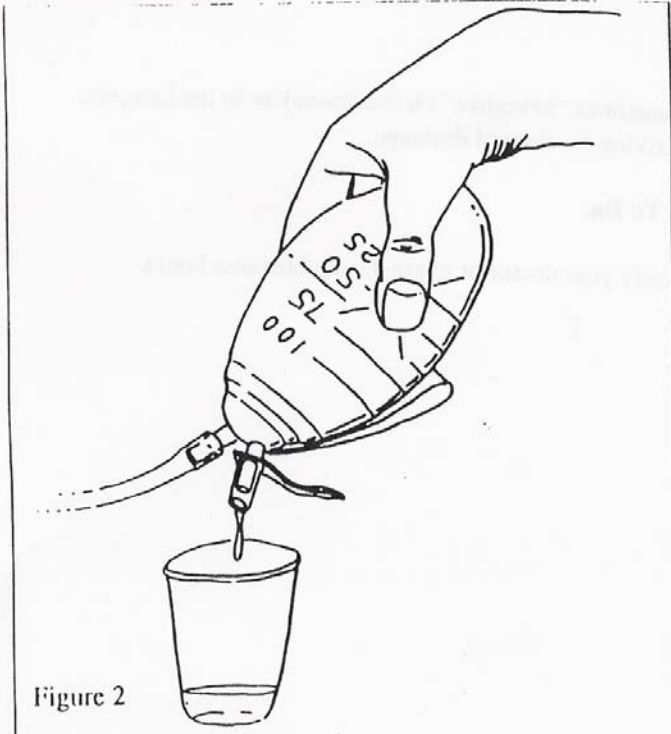


Figure 2

4. Turn the Jackson Pratt right side up.
5. Squeeze the bulb until your fingers feel the palm of your hand.
6. Continue to squeeze the bulb while replugging the stopper.

7. Check to see that the bulb remains fully compressed to assure a constant gentle suction.
8. Pin the collar of your Jackson Pratt securely to a piece of your clothing. Do not let it dangle. A "fanny pack" or belt bag may be helpful to hold the drain.
9. Check the amount of drainage in the measuring container.
10. Record this amount on your Jackson Pratt Drainage Record found on the back cover. At the end of each day, add the total amount of drainage for the 24-hour period and record it in the last column.
11. Flush the drainage down the toilet and rinse the measuring container with water.

CARING FOR THE DRESSING

Once you have emptied the drainage, wash your hands again and check the dressing covering the catheter insertion site (the area where the catheter enters the skin). Your doctor or nurse will give you specific instructions for dressing care for the catheter insertion site. Look for any signs of infection (i.e., redness, tenderness, swelling, or pus).

