

Drain Care

During surgery, Dr. Timothy Janiga may place drains to help remove any fluid that collects after surgery, allowing you to heal faster. These drains have bulbs at the ends which collect the fluid. When the drain is first placed, the bulbs will be compressed to create a gentle suction. As the fluid collects in the bulb, it will expand. Whenever the bulb fills 50% or more, you must empty the bulb by opening the plug at the top and pouring out the contents. Please measure the amount of fluid before discarding it and keep a log of how much fluid you empty for each drain. The drain bulbs have markings on them to help you measure. Squeeze the bulb to recompress it and put the plug back into the hole at the top of the bulb in order to maintain the vacuum.

You will also need to strip your drains to ensure that the tubes leading off from the bulbs do not become obstructed. First, secure the tube to the body using your thumb and pointer finger of one hand. Using the other hand, squeeze the tube while sliding your fingers away from your body towards the bulb; you will not be able to slide your fingers down the entire tube in one stroke. Work your way slowly down the tube, remembering to always keep the tube secured with your other hand. After you are done, the tube may appear collapsed; this is normal and means that you have gotten all the fluid from the tube into the bulb. The color of the drainage will be bright red immediately after surgery; in the days following it will become a lighter, pink color.

Drains will be removed by Dr. Janiga based upon the amount of fluid your body is producing on a daily basis. Please bring the log of your total drainage as we use this to help decide if the drains are ready to be removed. **YOU MAY NOT SHOWER UNTIL THE DRAINS ARE REMOVED.** Once the drains are removed you may shower, but please do not remove the Steri-Strips on the incision. **HELPFUL YOUTUBE VIDEO:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8io_Bphjzb8