
Drain Care Instructions

- Your surgery requires the placement of drains to remove excess fluids from your wounds.
- You will notice clear tubes exiting your body connecting to small reservoirs.
- You will be taught how to care for the drains after surgery.
- Please empty the drains every eight hours and record the volumes. List the volumes of each drain separately and then total the individual drain outputs every 24 hours. After the volume becomes low enough the drains will be removed. It is important that each drain is recorded separately.
- Please strip the drains every four hours while awake and as needed. Stripping the drain tubes removes clots from the tubes and allows them to drain effectively. Stripping the tubes is very important to proper drain function.
- The drainage will initially be red in color and progressively become thinner in character and change to a pale and eventually become clear or straw colored. The time required for these changes to occur varies between patients.
- You may change the outer dressings around the drain tubes on the second day after surgery. You may shower at this point. Please do not take a bath.
- After you shower, please apply some over-the-counter triple antibiotic ointment to the tube site before putting on a new dressing.
- Please call the office if you have any questions or if we may be of assistance.
- Please call the office 916-419-4588 if you develop an elevated temperature or if anything concerns you.