

## Drain Care Instructions

Please attach the drainage bulb to your clothing so that the bulb and drainage tube are not pulling on the skin.

Please plan to shower once daily beginning two days after your surgery. Remove the outer bandages, if any. Let the warm shower water splash on the incision area. Use non-fragrance regular soap. Use a clean towel to pat the incision area dry, and then dry the remainder of your body. Please do not attempt to wash or clean out the inside of the drainage bulb or tubes as this will certainly lead to infection.

Once you have showered, wash your hands with soap and water. Open a package of 4 x 4 gauze bandages. Fold one 4 x 4 gauze sponge in half. Place the folded square under the drainage tube as it exits the incision. Place another gauze square over the drain tube and tape the bandage in place.

Please empty the drainage bulb one to three times per day. Unplug the drainage bulb and hold it upside down over a measuring container. Squeeze the bulb until it is empty. Continue to squeeze the bulb to get the air out. When the drainage bulb is collapsed, insert the plug back in to the drain hole. Record the amount of drainage on a chart. Be sure to **add up a 24-hour total for each drain each day**, as this is the number used to decide when it's time for the drains to be removed.

Patient's Initials\_\_\_\_\_

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