

WOUND SUCTION DEVICE INSTRUCTIONS

The Wound Suction Device is a tube connected to a small plastic bulb container. We use this device to drain the accumulated fluid from your incision area. The tube is inserted into a small incision, near the main surgical wound. When the bulb is squeezed together, it creates suction. The suction drains extra fluids from the wound. Surgical incisions and wounds heal faster when clean and dry. The following information will help you care for your wound suction device at home.

DAILY CARE:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Check the skin around the drainage tube daily –call your doctor if you notice:
 - Redness, swelling, tenderness, red streaks in the skin at the drainage tube insertion site.
 - Skin is warm to touch around the drainage tube site.
 - Foul smelling cloudy drainage or pus.
 - Chills or fever.
3. Cleanse the skin around the tube daily, using a clean wash cloth with mild soap and warm water. Rinse well and pat dry with a towel.
4. If you have dried, crusty drainage around the tube gently remove it. Use a washcloth wet with a solution of equal amounts of water and hydrogen peroxide. Rinse well with warm water—pat dry.
5. The drainage insertion site is usually not covered with a bandage. If fluid leaks around the tube, apply a gauze 4 x 4 dressing around it and secure to skin with paper tape. Change the dressing when it becomes wet to prevent skin infection.
6. Do not allow the bulb to hang freely—secure to the inside of your clothing, near to the place where the tube goes into the body. Place a strip of tape over the drainage tube to hold the tube to the skin.

EMPTYING THE DRAINAGE CONTAINER:

Empty the bulb and measure the amount of fluid twice daily, unless the drainage fills the bulb more often. Once the tubes drain less than 30-50cc/ml in a 24 hr. period, please call our office to set up an appointment to have it removed.

TO EMPTY, FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS:

- Wash your hands with soap and water.

- Unplug the drainage plug from the pour spout. Be careful not to touch the tips of the pour spout and the drainage plug with your hands or against the measuring container.
- To empty, squeeze the bulb while pouring fluid into the container. **Note the amount, color, consistency & odor of the drainage.** Report foul odor or an increase in drainage to our office. Record the amount on a record sheet and take to the doctor's visit.
- To create a vacuum, squeeze the bulb until the sides touch. Insert the drainage plug in the pour spout, and release the bulb. The compression drains the fluid from the wound into the bulb.
- If there is no drainage in the bulb and you notice increased swelling in the tissue around the tube, call our office at 314-432-1772.
- Empty the drainage into the toilet and flush. Do not save the drainage.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- If you have a second drain, repeat the process.