

How to Care for a Hemovac[®] Drain

Purpose of the Drain

The Hemovac drain helps remove extra fluid from your surgery site. This will help your body heal faster and reduce the chance you get an infection.

Parts of the Drain

Your surgeon placed the drain tubing under your skin. The tubing is connection to the drain, which is called an evacuator. This holds the fluid until you empty it.

How You May Feel

After the drain is inserted, you may feel a little sore or tender at the surgery site. This is normal. You should feel better each day.

You can expect to have the drain in place for up to several days.

What You Will See

The drain collects fluid, blood and debris from the surgery site. In general, the color of the fluids will change from bright red to a watery red. This is normal.

You should have more fluids drain the first few days after surgery.

When to Empty the Drain

- Empty the drain when it is half full.
- You can set a reminder to empty the drain every 8 hours.

How to Empty the Drain

- Gather your supplies:
 - measuring cup
 - clean washcloth and towel.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Dry your hands with the towel.
- Empty the evacuator using the measuring cup you received in the hospital.
 - Open the stopper to release the suction.
 - Turn the evacuator upside down over the measuring cup.
 - After it is empty, put the evacuator on a hard surface and squeeze it tightly.
 - Put the stopper back in.
 - Make sure the tubing is not kinked.
- Measure the drainage. Write down how much fluid you collected on the other side.
- Flush the contents down the toilet.
- Wash the measuring cup with soap and water. Let it air dry.
- Wash your hands.

How Care for the Drain Site

Follow the directions in your After Visit Summary. In general:

- Keep the site clean and dry.
- Do not take a bath or swim until the drain tubing is removed.

(over)

- You may take a shower with bandages over the site.
 - Cover the bandages with plastic wrap before your shower.
 - Dry off using a clean towel. Pat the area dry.
 - Remove the plastic wrap after you shower.
- Change the bandages if they get wet.

- Put the gauze over the drain tube site.
- Use 4 strips of tape to secure the gauze in place. (Tape the gauze a frame.)
- Wash your hands with soap and water.

When to Call Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider if you have:

How to Change the Bandages

- Gather your supplies:
 - new bandages
 - gauze
 - medical tape
 - clean scissors
 - clean washcloth and towel.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Dry your hands with the towel.
- Remove the old bandages and throw them away.
- Use a washcloth to carefully wash your skin around the tube. You may use soap. Rinse your skin with clean water and pat the area dry.

- any of these at the drain site:
 - pain that gets worse
 - new pain
 - bleeding
 - swelling or redness
 - drainage that collects at the surgery site and doesn't go down the tube
 - no drainage
 - a foul odor
 - any issue with the tubing or evacuator
- chills or fever of 101 F or higher
- any questions or concerns.

	Date	Time	Time	Time	Total (mL)
Tube 1					
Tube 2					
Tube 3					
Tube 1					
Tube 2					
Tube 3					
Tube 1					
Tube 2					
Tube 3					

	Date	Time	Time	Time	Total (mL)
Tube 1					
Tube 2					
Tube 3					
Tube 1					
Tube 2					
Tube 3					
Tube 1					
Tube 2					
Tube 3					