

What is a Surgical Drain?

A surgical drain is a personal medical device designed to make your care at home, after-surgery, easy and comfortable. Properly caring for your surgical drain can help you avoid complications after surgery, including infection.

When you have surgery, that area of your body may produce fluid. Too much fluid can slow healing and cause discomfort. The surgical drain removes the fluid to allow your body to heal safely. A surgical drain is made up of a very thin, flexible tube, called a catheter or drainage tube. The extra fluid drains through the tube and into a collection device like a bulb or bag. It can then be measured and emptied.

There are several different kinds of surgical drains. Common drains include: Jackson-Pratt, Redivac, Pigtail and Penrose. The drain is inserted during surgery. You may have a stitch to hold the tube in place and the site may be covered with sterile dressings to prevent infection.

“If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call at the hospital.”

When you are ready to leave the hospital, your healthcare provider will give you directions on how to care for your drain at home. Make sure to follow these instructions to prevent complications and to allow your body to heal.