

What is A Surgical Drain?

A Surgical Drain removes fluid from your body after surgery. Too much fluid buildup can increase your risk of infection. If your recovery will benefit from a surgical drain, your surgeon will insert the drain during your procedure.

A surgical drain has two main parts; the thin, flexible tube and a collection device like a bulb or bag. The extra fluid drains from the area of your procedure, through the tube and into the collection device.

The type of surgical drain your healthcare provider inserts depends on the type of surgery, the type of incision, and what your healthcare provider decides is the best drain for you to heal safely.

You may need to empty the bag or bulb on a regular basis until the drain is removed a few days after surgery. When you are ready to leave the hospital, your healthcare provider will give you directions on how to care for your drain at home.