

Post Surgery Drain Care

Dr. Bransky has put one or more drains (drainage tubes) made of soft plastic in the area of your incision.

What is a Surgical Drain?

Drains are tubes used in an incision area to stop fluid from building up. The fluid keeps the surgical site from healing. Each drain has a suction bulb attached to it that will hold 3-4oz. of fluid.

What to Watch For

The amount of fluid that collects in the bulb over a 24-hour period will slowly decrease. The fluid color may change from red to reddish-yellow, then to yellowish-white. This depends on where the drain was placed.

Stripping the Tube

Each tube should be “stripped” if it looks like it is not draining by following the directions below:

1. Hold the tubing near where it is inserted into the skin with one hand.
2. With the other hand (or a hard object like a pencil), gently squeeze the tubing while moving the hand along the tubing in a downward direction, away from the skin, toward the suction bulb.
3. You may need to repeat this a few times to get it to start draining again.

Draining the Tube

Dr. Bransky can take out a drainage tube when the amount of drainage a single tube collects in a 24-hour period is ~30 cc (1 oz) or less. Until a tube is removed, you must empty the suction bulb on it 2 times per day or whenever it becomes full. Follow the steps below to drain each tube:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water and dry them well.
2. Leave the suction bulb connected to the drainage tubing. Remove the drain stopper and squeeze the bulb to empty all drainage into the measuring cup.
3. To restart the suction, gently squeeze all of the air from the bulb. Then close the plastic stopper. The bulb should be flat for the drain to work properly.
4. Write the amount of drainage on the Drainage Record Chart. If you have more than one drain, empty and record each drain separately.
5. Look at the drainage to see if it has an unusual color or odor. Look at the drain insertion site to see if there is any tenderness, redness, warmth to touch or pus. These are signs of infection.
6. Throw away the fluid in the toilet. Wash the measuring cup with soap and water, dry it and save it for next time. Wash your hands with soap and water and dry them well.
7. When the total amount of drainage in a 24-hour period is 30cc (1oz) or less for any of the drains, call the clinic for an appointment so the drain can be taken out.

Post Surgery Drain Care

Call Dr. Bransky If

- There are problems with the drain. For example, leaking of fluid, clogged tubing or the drain won't maintain suction.
- There is increased redness or pain around the incision.
- You have a temperature of 101°F (38.3°C) or more.
- In case of emergencies, call Dr. Bransky and/or proceed to the nearest Emergency Room.