



Breast Care Center: 315-464-8224

www.universityhospital.org

Information for You from Your Health Care Team

Instructions For Emptying Drain Post-Operatively

- Always keep the drain below the level of your armpit. You will be given a belt and pouch before surgery for the container.
- Wash your hands.
- Remove the plug from the pouring spout before measuring the amount in the container.
- Measure the contents in the drainage container using the measurement on the side of the container.
- Empty all the fluid out of the container. Then squeeze all the air out of the drainage container and replace the plug into the spout. It is important to empty the air out completely. If air is left in the container, the suction will not work well.
- Each time you empty your drain, record the date, time, and the amount of drainage.
- Empty the container two times a day (i.e., when you get up in the morning and before going to sleep at night, for example, 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.)
- When there is 25 cc. or less in 24 hours, call the Nurse Practitioner to make an appointment to have the drain removed, at 315-464-8224.
- If you notice the dressing is becoming filled with fluid, this is probably because the drain is plugged. Milk the drain tube to try and unplug the tubing. If the drain is not functioning call the Nurse Practitioner.

Drain Care Chart

*Record the date and the amount of drainage in the appropriate column.

DATE	MORNING	EVENING	TOTAL