



Patient & Family Guide
2017

T-Tube, Hemovac, and J. Pratt Drain Care



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T-Tube, Hemovac, and J. Pratt Drain Care

Care at home

This pamphlet will help you with your drain care at home.

Most wounds and surgical drains can be handled by you or with the help of a family member or friend.

What is a T-Tube?

A T-Tube is shaped like the letter T. It is placed into the bile duct to drain bile while the duct is healing. The T-Tube is left in for 10 days or more.

Before taking out the T-Tube, an X-ray is done to make sure that the duct has healed and, if stones were present, that they are all gone. If there are any stones remaining, they will be removed through the tube. You may or may not go home with the T-Tube clamped. If it is not clamped, the T-Tube will be attached to a bag which can be taped to your body.

What is a Hemovac and a Jackson Pratt?

A Hemovac and a Jackson Pratt (J. Pratt) are drainage tubes which are connected to a collection device. The collection device is compressed to create a suction to remove fluid. A tube is placed in your wound to remove fluid. This will help healing and reduce infection. You will see fluid and blood in the drain.

You may feel some burning and pulling from the stitch holding the tubing to the skin. The drain and tubing are usually removed when the fluid is less than 30cc (2 tablespoons) each day.

Make sure the tubing is inside your clothes so it doesn't get caught on anything or pulled out.

Care of incision and tube sites

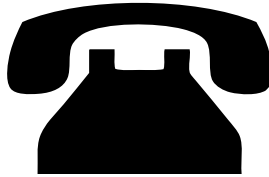
You will have a bandage at the site where the tube is placed. This is to protect the open area from infection.

You may or may not have stitches. If you do have stitches, they will be taken out 7-14 days after surgery. They may be taken out by your family doctor or your surgeon.

Steri-Strips™ may be placed on the incision (cut). If so, they may be removed in 7-10 days. They may curl up and fall off on their own.

Ask your doctor when you can take a shower.

You can take a tub bath as long as you keep yourself dry from the tube and incision sites up. You can take a full bath when the incision is healed and the drain is removed.



Call your doctor if you have:

- Pain, swelling, or fluid around the tube
- Redness or warmth around the incision
- Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) and vomiting (throwing up)
- Chills and fever
- Fluid from the incision
- Stitches holding the tube that become loose or infected
- A tube that falls out
- Fluid that has a bad smell
- Drainage that changes colour from light pink to bright red

How do I empty the drain?

Before going home, your nurse will teach you how to empty and measure your drain. Here are some things to remember:

- Empty your drain at least 3 times a day. You can empty it more often if needed.
- Measure the amount of fluid in the drain and write it down. We will give you a measuring cup. Record the amount of fluid on the chart at the end of this pamphlet. Remember to bring the chart with you to your next visit.

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

Drains

If you have a T-Tube:

- Remove closure on bottom of leg bag
- Drain fluid into cup
- Replace closure on bottom of leg bag

If you have a Hemovac:

- Lift cork (drain will expand). Turn upside down and drain fluid

When empty:

- Place on hard surface and press down until flat
- Close cork again
- Never put anything in the drain to clean it

If you have a J. Pratt:

- Lift opening
- Drain fluid
- Squeeze bulb with hands until air is expressed (air comes out)
- Close opening
- Never put anything in the drain to clean it

Change your dressing only when needed.

Supplies you will need at home:

- Normal saline (salt water)
- Tape
- 2 x 2 gauze pads
- 4 x 4 gauze pads
- Q-tips®
- Other _____



1. Wash your hands.
2. Remove the old bandage.
3. Wash your hands well and dry them.
4. Wet a Q-tip® in normal saline. Clean around the incision and tube sites.
5. You may need to make a cut in the bandage to fit it around the tube.
6. Put new bandages on the incision and tube sites. The bandages should cover the drain area and the incision. This will keep them clean.
7. Use tape to keep bandages in place.

My record

Date	How much?

My record

Date	How much?

My record

Date	How much?

Notes:

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 For more information go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

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 The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.

