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GENERAL AND ONCOLOGIC SURGERY OF THE BREAST AND ABDOMEN

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Post-Operative Care Instructions for Patients with Jackson-Pratt drains

1. A drain has been placed in your wound because of the type of surgery that you had. Often times fluid will accumulate following surgery and the drain has been placed in order to prevent the fluid from accumulating and thus help the wound to heal.
2. If you do not understand how to empty the drain, a nurse can be arranged to take you through the first few times until you are comfortable doing it on your own.
3. The nurse in the recovery room will go over emptying the drain and re-sealing it with you.
4. There is a water-proof dressing over the drain. Some drainage may occur around the drain itself and it can be reinforced with gauze and tape and if it becomes messy, carefully remove the dressing and wash with hydrogen peroxide and apply bacitracin or antibiotic ointment to the site and apply a large band aid as a dressing.
5. You may shower lightly over the drain if it is permissible to shower after your surgery.
6. Please call me if you are experiencing any problems with the drain. Most drains do not stay in longer than five to seven days.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE HAVING A HEART ATTACK OR OTHER EMERGENT PROBLEM, PLEASE CALL 9-1-1 FIRST TO HAVE AN AMBULANCE BRING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL, THEN CONTACT THE OFFICE TO LET ME KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON.