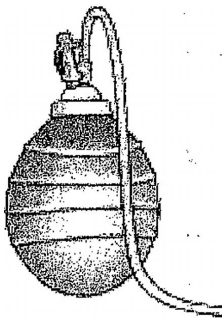
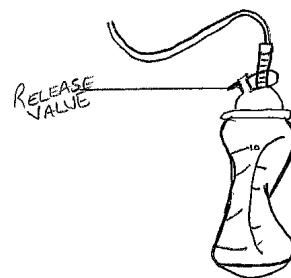


HOME CARE OF DRAINS DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

A **drain** was placed and stitched in to prevent collection of blood in your body after surgery. This is a self-contained suction system that actively pulls blood from the surgical incision and into the bulb. **To activate the suction apparatus**, the bulb must be compressed by first opening the release valve, and then once the bulb is fully compressed, the valve is plugged to maintain the suction. This will slowly pull fluid accumulating in the surgical area out into the bulb. Once the bulb gets full or after a certain period of time (6-8 hours), the fluid in the bulb should be squeezed out. This is accomplished by opening the valve and simply squeezing the fluid out of the bulb. The fluid can be flushed down the toilet. These bulbs do have markers with approximate volume on the wall of the bulb. **This volume should be recorded and the time when the fluid was emptied.** Typically, the bulb will need to be re-compressed to maintain the pressure every 6-8 hours depending upon the volume pulled out. The importance of removing this fluid is that it will reduce the likelihood of blood collecting under the surgical incision and forming a hematoma. A hematoma can slow healing and possibly lead to infection. It is VERY important that you recompress (squeeze) the suction periodically because if the bulb has no compression, it will not be sucking out any of the fluids which is the purpose of the drain. Therefore, if there is very little fluid in the system but the bulb is fully inflated, it is not creating the desired suction. You should periodically examine your drain to make sure that the walls are compressed so that the suction **is being maintained.** If you have any questions about proper use of the suction drain, please contact your doctor's office.



Full or uncompressed bulb
Not sucking blood out.



Working compressed bulb
Creating vacuum
Pulling fluid out of body



SURGERY CENTER

Phone: (224) 612-7000

HOME CARE OF DRAINS DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

***If you have any questions or concerns regarding your surgery (even after business hours or over the weekend), PLEASE CALL THE 24 HOUR ON CALL NURSE at 224-612-7000.**

Please go to your nearest Hospital Emergency Department if you experience chest pain, difficulty breathing, or other emergency signs or symptoms.