

Home Care for Your Percutaneous Drain

Biliary Drain or Abscess Drain

A tube has been inserted to drain your infection. The drain may be in place for several days or weeks, depending on your specific condition.

The tubing is held in place with stitches and has a bag that is connected to the tubing that will collect the drainage. Your health care provider will tell you when your drain can be removed.

How to take care of your drain(s)

- Do not bathe in a tub, sit in any water that is deep enough to cover your drain, or swim in any water.
- You may shower. When you shower:
 - Remove the dressing.
 - Allow soapy water to run over your drain.
 - Do not scrub around your drain.
 - Gently pat the area dry with a clean towel.
- Take care not to pull or tug on the drain.
- **If your drain has a dressing, change it daily** and whenever it gets wet or dirty. When you shower is a good time to remove the dressing and apply a new one.
- **Clean the skin around your drain tubing daily.** After you shower is a good time to do this.
- **Flush your drain daily** to prevent clogging of the drain.
- **Empty your drainage bag in the morning and the evening**, or any time it is heavy with a lot of fluid. Record the drainage output in the “wound drainage record sheet” at the end of this handout.

You will receive supplies to care for your drain. Extra bandage supplies may be bought at your local drug store.

How to change the dressing

If your drain has a dressing, change it daily and whenever it gets wet or dirty. When you shower is a good time to remove the dressing and apply a new one.

Follow these instructions:

1. Gather your supplies and set up a clean work area.
2. Wash your hands well with soap and warm water. Rinse and dry.

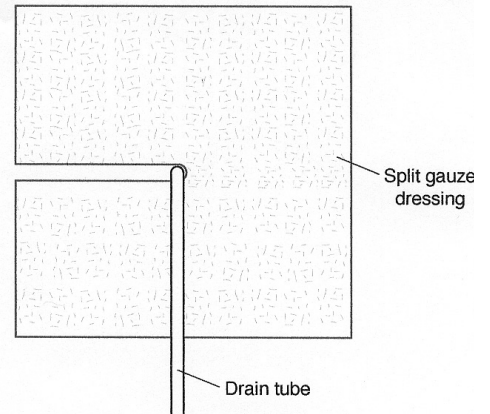


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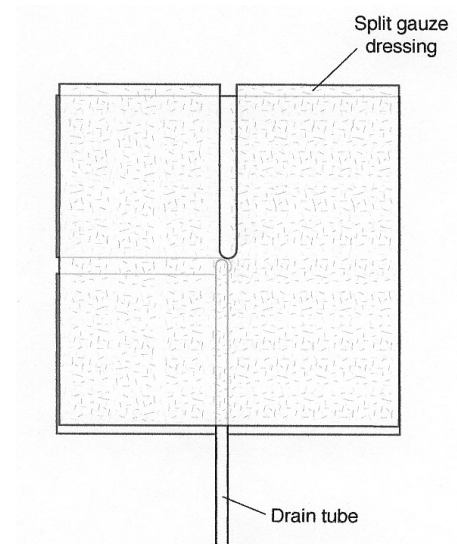
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3. Loosen the tape and remove the old dressing. Be careful not to pull the drain out. Look at the dressing for any unusual or bad smelling drainage. Put the old dressing in a plastic bag and throw it away in the trash.
4. Wash your hands again with soap and warm water. Rinse and dry.
5. Check the skin around the tubing for any redness, swelling, warmth, or bad smelling drainage.
6. Clean the skin around your tubing. Follow the instructions on page 3 for “How to clean the skin around your drain tubing.”
7. Use tape to secure the dressing.
8. Open the 4 x 4 split gauze dressing package and remove the gauze pad. Touch **only** the edges of the gauze pad. Put the gauze around the tube as shown in the picture.

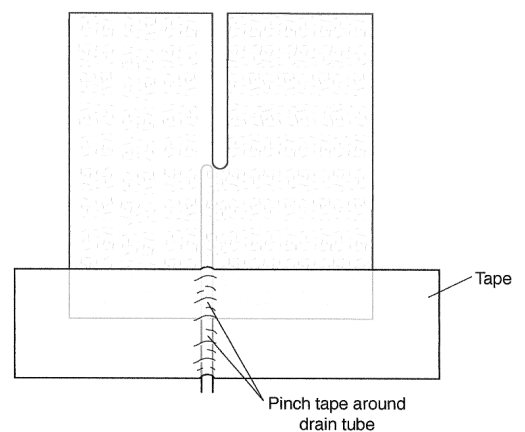


9. If you are directed to use a second split gauze dressing, place it over the first gauze dressing. Place the second gauze to cover the tube as shown in the picture.

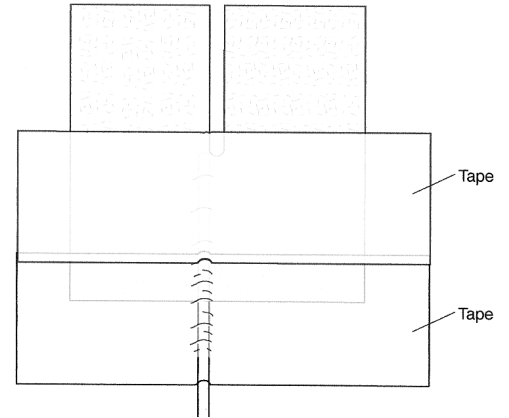


10. Tape the gauze dressing in place. If you are to cover the whole dressing, use 3 pieces of tape:

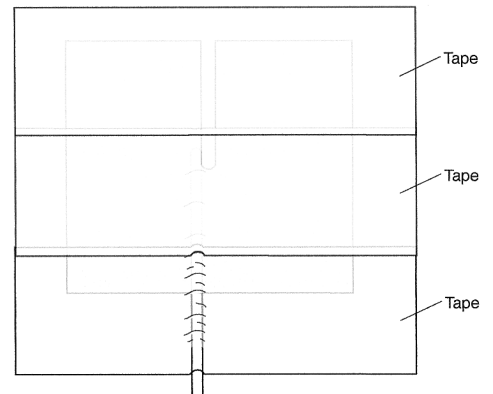
- Put the first piece of tape where the tube comes out from under the dressing. Pinch the tape around the tube, so it will not move if it gets pulled.



- Put the second piece of tape over the center of the dressing, so the edges of the tapes just overlap.



- Then put a third piece of tape to cover the rest of the dressing.

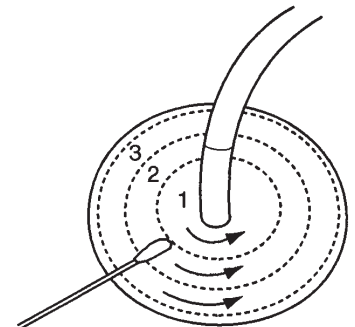


How to clean the skin around your drain tubing

Clean the skin around your drain tubing daily. After you shower is a good time to do this.

Follow these instructions:

1. Wash your hands well with soap and warm water. Rinse and dry.
2. Clean the skin with soap and water.
3. Clean the skin around the tubing. Start at the center where the tube comes out of the skin. Use a circular motion to clean the skin around the tube. Slowly move out and away from the tube 3 to 4 inches. **Do not** clean back towards the tube. Let the skin air dry.
4. Check the skin around the tube for any redness, swelling, warmth, or a bad smelling drainage.
5. If you have more than one drain, clean the skin around each drain tube.
6. Wash your hands well with soap and warm water. Rinse and dry.



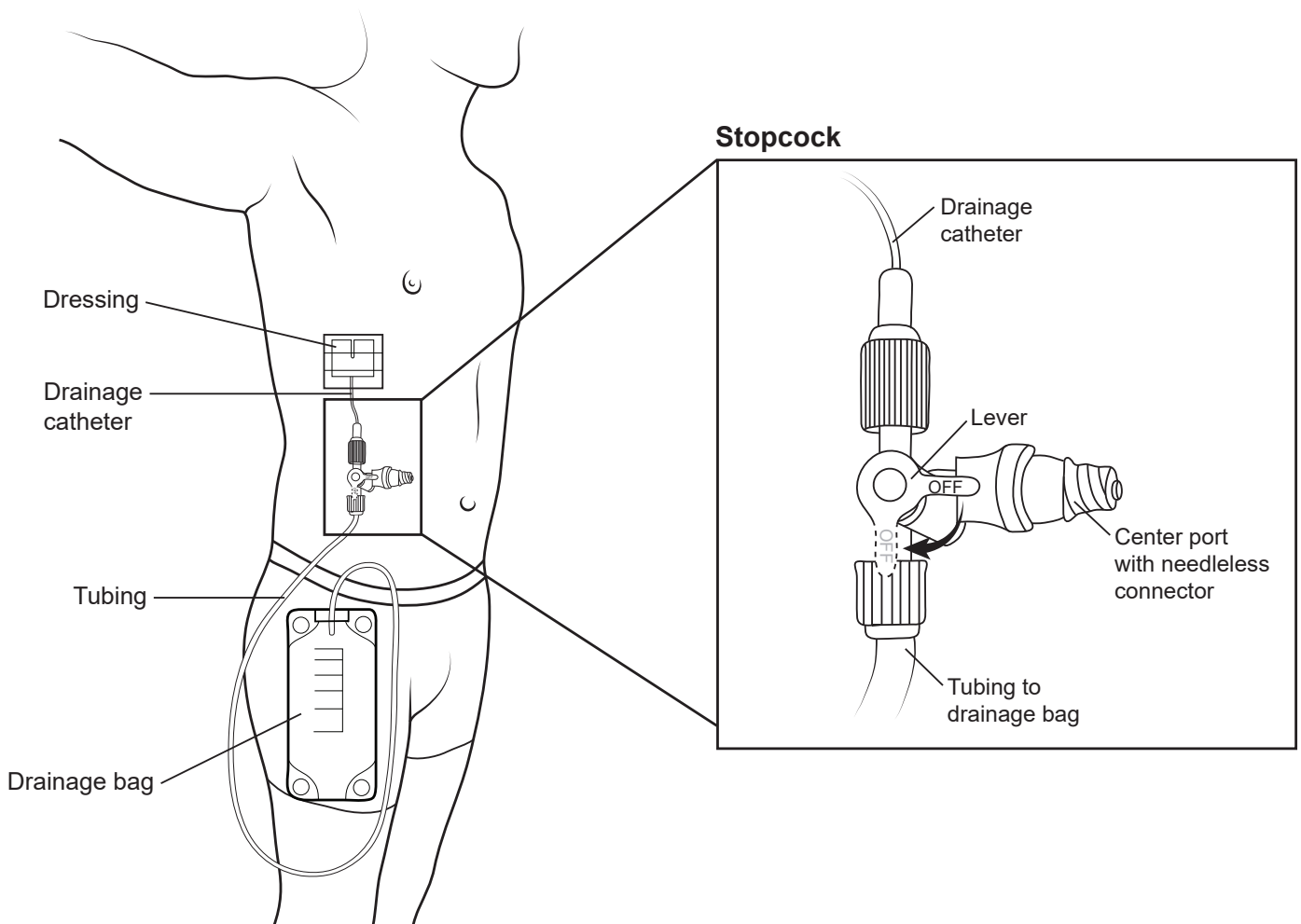
How to flush your drain(s)

Flush your drain daily to prevent clogging of the drain. You may want to do this in the bathroom, in case of leakage.

Follow these instructions:

1. Prepare a clean work area.
2. Gather your supplies for each drain:
 - A pre-filled syringe (10 milliliters of sterile normal saline)
 - An alcohol wipe
3. Always wash your hands with soap and water before handling your drain.
4. There is a **stopcock** placed in the tubing. The stopcock has 3 openings or ports:
 - 1 port is connected to the **drainage catheter** or tubing that goes into your body
 - 1 port is a center port, which has a **needleless connector** that leads to outside air
 - 1 port is connected to tubing that leads to your **drainage bag**

A **lever** on the stopcock is used to change the opening that is open or closed. The lever always points to the opening that is closed. **Turn the stopcock off to the drainage bag.**



5. Wipe the end of the stopcock's center port with an alcohol wipe and attach the pre-filled syringe.
6. Gently inject the fluid in the syringe. Make sure the tubing for the drainage catheter is straight, and not folded or kinked.
- 7. Turn the stopcock off to the center port** and remove the syringe.
8. Wash your hands again with soap and warm water. Rinse and dry.

How to empty your drain

Empty your bag in the morning and the evening, or any time it is heavy with a lot of fluid.

Follow these instructions:

1. Wash your hands well with soap and warm water. Rinse and dry.
2. Get a measuring cup and your "wound drainage record sheet." Use your record sheet to write down the amount and color of fluid from the drainage bag. You can use the record sheet at the end of this handout or make your own.
3. Unfasten the pin or clip that holds the bag to your clothing.
4. Open the plug on the bag.
5. Empty the bag over the measuring cup and empty it.
6. Do not let the bag dangle. Carefully pin or clip the bag to your clothing. Attach the bag lower than the area where it comes out of your body. Make sure the tubing lies flat with no kinks.
7. Check the amount and color of the fluid in the measuring cup.
8. Write the date, time, amount, and color of the fluid on your record sheet. If you have more than one drain, empty, measure, and write down the amount of fluid for each drainage bag.
9. Empty the fluid into the toilet, rinse the measuring cup, and flush the toilet.
10. Wash your hands well with soap and warm water. Rinse and dry.

If the tube stops draining:

1. Make sure the tubing to the drainage bag is open.
2. Check for kinks in the tube. If a kink is present, re-tape the tube so that it lies smoothly.
3. Inspect the tubing to see if something is blocking the inside of the tube.
4. Try flushing the tube to remove blockage.
5. If you are unable to flush the tube with the syringe, try pulling back on the syringe plunger lightly before pushing.
6. Call your provider if you cannot flush the tube.

Call your provider right away if you have any of the following:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher
- Redness, swelling, or unusual drainage where the tube comes out of the skin
- Drainage that becomes milky, cloudy, or bad smelling
- A sudden increase in the amount of drainage (more than 40 ml)
- Any new or increased pain
- Clots or clogs in the tubing that you are unable to clear by stripping
- Little or no drainage in the drain and fluid is leaking where the tube comes out of the skin
- The drain tubing pulls out of your skin
- Skin irritation, redness, or blistering from the tape over your dressing

Wound drainage record sheet

Write in the date, time, amount, and color of the fluid from each drain every time you empty a drain.

Date	Drain # _____		Drain # _____	
	Amount and color of fluid		Amount and color of fluid	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
	_____ml color:	_____ml color:	_____ml color:	_____ml color:
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