

Postoperative Drain Instruction Sheet Cervical Anterior Surgery

- After surgery, a drain will be placed near your incision to collect any blood accumulation from surgery.
- You will likely go home after surgery with a drain.
- Prior to discharge from the hospital, your nurse will instruct you on how to empty and remove the drain at home.
- The hospital should provide you with necessary supplies: cup, gauze, and tape.
- You should empty the drain every 8 hours: morning, afternoon, and night.
- You should remove the drain as followed:

If surgery is on:	Remove the drain in AM on:
Monday	Wednesday
Tuesday	Thursday
Wednesday	Friday
Thursday	Saturday
Friday	Sunday



Drain Removal Instructions:

- In a seated position, remove the white tape and dressing over the drain insertion site.
- Gently and steadily pull the drain to remove and discard the drain and dressing. The drain tubing may be inserted 4-8 inches under the skin.
- Using a gauze dressing, apply a small amount of pressure to the drain site to collect any residual drainage, if needed.
- Tape a new gauze dressing over the drain site.
- Leave the dressing on for 2 hours. If no drainage, you may remove the dressing and shower.
- Leave the waterproof dressing covering your incision on for 3 days. You may then remove the dressing and shower. Leave the incision open to air. The steri strips over the incision can be removed after an additional 10 days, unless they fall off on their own.