

How to record your drain output following Inguinal Lymph Node Dissection

Information for patients



Leeds Cancer
Centre

As part of your surgery we have removed your lymph nodes which is a natural drainage system as part of your body's defence against infection.

As we have disrupted this we would expect the lymph fluid to continue to be produced for a little while. Which will collect in the area of surgery.

It is important that the drain remains in place until your body has adapted, otherwise this could lead to a number of complications, such as a break down of wounds, collection of a lymphocele, which is a collection of lymph fluid and would require regular drainage.

In order to remove your drains we like the volume to be 50mls or less in 24 hours **OR** if the drain has been in place for 28 days.

Your drain will only be removed at these key points.

We need you to keep a record of each time you empty your drain, along with a total for a 24 hour period.

Your CNS will either bring you to clinic or offer a telephone consultation to monitor your progress.

How to empty the drain (step by step guide).



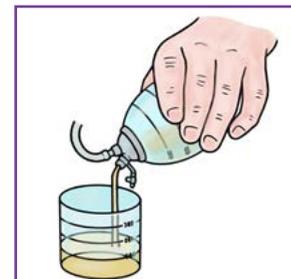
Start by washing your hands thoroughly.



Release the cap that's next to the tube.



Release any suction in the drain.



Empty contents of the drain in to a measuring container and record this on the balance chart on pages 5-7.



With one hand, squeeze the drain together, to reapply the suction. **Do not let go at this point!**



With your other hand, reapply the cap. This will make sure the suction is in place to allow the lymph fluid to drain from your body.



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