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Drain care instructions

We no longer recommend stripping of the drain tubing, it is OK to pinch the tubing over the areas of debris in the tubes to break it up so it will still flow well.

Empty and record the output twice a day or more if needed.

If the drain dressing that was placed at the time of surgery has peeled up and is leaking to the drain-skin site then you will need to start daily drain care. You can call the office and see me for the first dressing change or if that does not work out then start care as outlined below.

1. Shower with hibiclens gently cleaning the drain site without the dressing on daily. Hang the dressing in front of you on a ribbon or key lanyard so that the tubing cannot be tugged on.
2. Dry gently with a clean towel
3. Clean the drains at the skin site and surrounding skin with a cotton ball or pad soaked in Rubbing Alcohol
4. Apply antibiotic ointment to the drain site at the junction with the skin.
5. Fold clean gauze under the drains then cover with another piece of gauze so that the drain to skin junction is covered. Then tape securely.

I use clean cotton 3X3 inch gauze pads and Bacitracin Zinc ointment. Other brands of antibiotic ointment are OK also. Mountain View Medical Supply at 5076 West 58th Avenue in Arvada sells tubes of the good clean gauze and antibiotic ointment. The gauze does not need to be sterile and hands should be washed before and after care.

If something doesn't seem right to you, please call, we are happy to answer questions.