



Alexis Alexandridis M.D.
BREAST & GENERAL SURGERY

Drain Care Instructions

- Wash hand with soap and water prior to handling the drain or the bulb.
- Empty and measure the fluid three times a day (morning, noon, before bed)
- First, using one hand, pinch the tube near the dressing. This will prevent you from pulling on the skin or pulling the tube out. With the other hand, use your fingers to gently squeeze and pull on the tubing to milk the fluid towards the bulb. This stripping motion will help prevent clotting in the tube.
- Next, empty the bulb. Open the valve (the bulb will expand) and squeeze the fluid from the bulb into the measuring cup.
- When the bulb is squeezed completely, close the valve. This reactivates the suction.
- Record how much comes out of each drain each time you empty it.
- We need to know how much fluid is being removed per 24-hour period.
- When the output is less than 30 mL per 24 hours for 2 days, we can remove the drain.
- On average, a drain will be needed for 1 week.
- Expect the fluid to be red for 2-3 days, then pink, then light amber.
- Please avoid getting the drains wet. Sponge baths and showering from the waist-down are ok.

707.938.7690

www.dralexissurgery.com

246 Perkins Street

Sonoma, CA 95476