

Hemovac Drains

On occasion, we will use a drain to prevent the collection of blood in the zone of surgery (underneath the incision). There are several types of drains, but the most common drain that we use is one referred to as a Hemovac.

The Hemovac drain has tubing with several small holes in it that lies in the bed of surgical site and is connected to a spring loaded canister that creates suction. The suction (or negative pressure) draws the blood that might have collected beneath the incision out through the tubing and collects in the cannister.

Occasionally, we will send patients home with a Hemovac drain still in place. In that situation, we will teach the patient how to empty the drain and ask that the patient keep track of when the cannister is emptied and the volume that is obtained.