

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the drain bottle is to prevent an accumulation of fluid in the operation sites. For example, from the mastectomy site or under your arm (axilla). This is to reduce the possibility of swelling, bruising and infection.

### REDIVAC DRAINAGE BOTTLE

The redivac drainage bottle, (see figure 1) is commonly used after breast cancer surgery. Excess fluid drains from your wound via a tube into this suction bottle.



Figure 1

Figure 2 shows the top of the suction bottle in more detail. The bottle on the left has suction present, whereas the bottle on the right has lost its suction.



Figure 2

If there is no suction, contact the Home Nurse on **83451793** during the day or if it is night time call the Home Nurse first thing in the morning to request a change of bottle.

If you develop increasing pain at the drain tube site overnight you can always call the Home Nurse on **1300334455** or attend the Emergency department at Western Hospital.

### Precautions

Daily activities can be performed, providing there is no discomfort. Please let the nurse visiting your house know if there is:

- Excessive bleeding (more than half a drain bottle in a couple of hours)
- Excessive leakage around the tube
- Any fever, shivering or temperature (above 38 C)
- Any redness, pain or swelling around the tubes or stitches

## TIPS

- Clothing that opens at the front is generally easier to wear.
- It is best to thread your drain tube bottle and arm on the affected side through your shirt sleeve first when getting dressed and last when undressing.
- Ensure there are no kinks in the tubing.
- A well supporting bra or crop top may be comfortable to wear.
- A small comfortable pillow to tuck under your arm (either while you sleep or travel in the car) may help take pressure off the drain tubes and operation site. You can obtain these pillows free of charge from:
  - Specialist Breast Care Nurse – on **8345 6896** or when you see her next.
- Generally the tubing will have a stitch in it to prevent it from falling out.
- Sometimes the tape anchoring the drain tube needs replacing. You can gently remove and replace it, or ask the Home Nurse to check at next visit.