

GENERAL AND SURGICAL ONCOLOGY SPECIALISTS OF CENTRAL PA



PATIENT EDUCATION

WHAT IS A DRAIN FOR?

- A drain is placed to remove excess fluid that builds up under tissue or in spaces created by the operation.
- Drains are also placed to control fluid from important operative areas or organs.
- You will drain the largest amounts of fluid the first few days after surgery and then the amount should taper off.
- The drain will usually be in for one to two weeks unless it is safer to leave it in longer.
- Dr. Conter will explain why it may be necessary to leave a drain in place for a longer period of time.
- We will provide you with instructions on how to care for your drain while you are at home recovering from your surgery.
- We will also provide you with a chart to record any output from the drain. It is important that you record this information as accurately as possible. Please bring this chart with you on your return visit.