

Leaving a drain opening without a tube is a standard medical practice that allows the wound to continue draining fluid naturally as it heals. The small incision, or drain site, is left open to heal on its own rather than being sutured shut. [1, 2]

Why a drain site is left open

- **Reduces infection risk:** After the drain is removed, the remaining fluid can escape naturally through the small opening. If the hole were immediately sealed with a stitch, any trapped fluid could become a breeding ground for bacteria, increasing the risk of infection.
- **Promotes natural healing:** The small opening is expected to close on its own, a process called "healing by secondary intention". The wound heals from the inside out, and the small drain tract collapses and seals over within a few days.
- **Prevents fluid buildup:** The final bit of drainage, even after the tube is removed, can be a sign that a seroma (a collection of serous fluid) was forming. Leaving the opening allows this last bit of fluid to escape, preventing a fluid pocket from building up under the skin. [1, 3, 4, 5, 6]

Care for the open drain site

- **Keep it clean:** The area should be kept clean to prevent infection. You may be advised to apply antibiotic ointment and cover it with a small, sterile bandage.
- **Avoid soaking:** For the first several weeks, it is often recommended to avoid baths, hot tubs, and swimming to prevent contamination of the healing area. You may be cleared for showering, but always follow your surgeon's specific instructions.
- **Monitor drainage:** Some minor drainage is normal for a few days. You should monitor the color and amount of fluid and contact your doctor if you experience a significant increase in drainage, the fluid becomes cloudy or foul-smelling, or if you develop a fever or increased pain. [1, 3, 7, 8, 9]

If you have any concerns about your wound or the drain site, you should contact your surgeon or healthcare provider.

AI responses may include mistakes.

[1] <https://www.realself.com/question/miami-beach-fl-arent-they-suppose-stitch-drain-hole-fromt-he-tummytuck-after-they>

[2] https://health.ucdavis.edu/surgery/specialties/oncologic/jp_instructions.pdf

[3] <https://www.realself.com/question/miami-beach-fl-arent-they-suppose-stitch-drain-hole-fromt-he-tummytuck-after-they>

[4] <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/312875>

[5] <https://www.dr.sukkar.com/blog/drainless-tummy-tuck-houston-techniques-for-recovery/>

[6] <https://www.aapc.com/discuss/threads/incision-and-drainage-coding-help.153440/>

[7] <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000039.htm>

[8] <https://www.westlakedermatology.com/blog/plastic-surgery-drains/>

[9] <https://aspiraplasticsurgery.com/blog/drainage-after-tummy-tuck/>