

NURSING 202 – ADVANCED CONCEPTS OF NURSING
CLASS PREP - CHEST TRAUMA: CHEST TUBES & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

It is important for the nurse to provide competent care when the patient has a chest tube. Independently review chest tube care and answer the following questions.

1. What should be your focal assessments for a patient with a chest tube?
 - a. **Respiratory assessment: work of breathing, RR, breath sounds, SpO₂**
2. Define the term “tidaling”.
 - a. **Reflects pressure in the pleural space**
 - b. **Inhalation: fluid in the chamber moves up**
 - c. **Exhalation: fluid in the chamber moves down**
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?
 - a. **If the lungs re-expand or tubing is obstructed**
4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.
 - a. **Initial bubbling occurs with evacuation of the pleural space**
5. What causes bubbling?
 - a. **Intermittent bubbling with exhalation, coughing, sneezing, until lungs re-expand**
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
 - a. **Keep drainage system below level of insertion**
7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?
 - a. **20cm of H₂O**
8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?
 - a. **80-100 mmHg**
9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?
 - a. **Occlusive dressing, closed on 3 sides**
10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.
 - a. **Impaired Gas Exchange**
 - b. **Acute Pain**