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

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1. What should be your focal assessments for a patient with a chest tube?

   Monitoring bubbling, tidaling, suction rate, integrity of tubing system, and drainage.
2. Define the term "Tidaling".

   Tidaling reflects the pressure in the pleural space, it rises and falls with inspiration and expiration. (*Normal* fluctuation of the water within the water seal chamber)
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

   Tidaling may fail to occur if the chest tube is occluded.
4. Define/describe the term "bubbling".

   Bubbling occurs when are is released into a liquid (continuous bubbling in the water seal chamber = NOT NORMAL!)
5. What causes bubbling?

   An increase in intrathoracic pressure causes bubbling (sneezing, coughing, exhaling)
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?

   Keep all connections between chest tubes, drainage tubing, and the drainage collector tight, and tape all connections
7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?

   Usual amount of negative pressure ordered is -20cm H20.
8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?

   Usual amount of negative pressure ordered is -20cm H20.
9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?

   An occlusive sterile dressing is used for a chest tube (sutured in place).
10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.

- **Acute pain; chest**
- **Risk for infection**