

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?

The tube is patent, breath sounds, vital signs, saO₂, and respiratory effort.

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

The water in the chamber moves/corresponds with the respirations.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

If the tube becomes occluded or kinked and the lung re-expands.

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

The water moving in the chamber.

5. What causes bubbling?

Bubbling happens when there is an air leak in the system.

6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?

Make sure all connections are secured with tape.

7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?

-20cm H₂O.

8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?

The manufacturers recommendation.

9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?

Occlusive dressing.

10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.
Risk for bleeding and risk for infection.