

**NURSING 202 – ADVANCED CONCEPTS OF NURSING**  
**CLASS PREP - CHEST TRAUMA: CHEST TUBES & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS-**  
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*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?  
**Breathe sounds, Spo2, work of breathing, RR, amount of output in chest tube, color of the drainage.**
2. Define the term “tidaling”.  
**Tidaling reflects pressure in the pleural space. Fluid in the tubing moves up while the patient inhales, then moves back down when the patient exhales.**
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?  
**Tidaling might fail to occur if the tubing is kinked or if lung is re-expanded.**
4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.  
**Bubbling can be seen in the chamber within the fluid. This usually occurs after initial placement due to lack of tight seal, but should go away as it becomes a closed system.**
5. What causes bubbling?  
**Bubbling can be caused by an air leak (when system is closed, should not see bubbling).**
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?  
**Keep the chest tube and drainage system below the level of the heart.  
Never clamp the tubing!**
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?  
**-20mmHg**
9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?  
**Occlusive sterile dressing (ensuring no air leaks to maintain negative pressure).**
10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.  
**Risk for infection and risk for bleeding**