

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? Assess respirations, work of breathing, and the chest tube patency and drainage.

2. Define the term “tidaling”. Normal fluctuation of water within the water seal chamber

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur? When the lungs re-expand tidaling gradually slows and then stops

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling – bubbling is the normal caused by air passing out of the pleural space into the fluid chamber.

5. What causes bubbling? Exhalation, air passing out the pleural space into the fluid chamber

6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing? Never elevate the drainage system to the level of the patient’s chest

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? 80-120mm hg

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.

11. Impaired gas exchange and risk for infection