

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?

Incision site, any drainage, and output in the tubing

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

Fluctuations in the water-seal chamber’s fluid level that corresponds with the respirations

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

If the tubing is kinked, tidaling may not occur

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Intermittent bubbling is normal and can occur when a patient coughs

5. What causes bubbling?

An air leak in the chest tube

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

Never clamp the chest tube

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

The generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system is -80 mmHg

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

Wall suction should be set to -20 mmHg

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

An occlusive dressing

10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.

Impaired gas exchange and risk for infection