

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?

Auscultate lung sounds, dyspnea, respiratory rate/depth, SpO₂ saturation, trachea alignment, assess tube system for tidaling/bubbling/kinks, drainage amount/color/characteristics, drainage system below level of pt chest, insertion site for redness/pain/infection/crepitus, 2 enclosed hemostats/sterile water/occlusive dsg @ bedside @ all times

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

Water in seal chamber rises with inhalation & falls with exhalation

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

System may not be patent or working properly, pt lung may have re-expanded

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Bubbling seen in the water seal chamber

5. What causes bubbling?

Common when sneezing, coughing, exhalation, but if continued → indicates an air leak

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

Verify all connections are secure & taped, chest tube securely in place in pts chest wall

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

-20 cm H₂O

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

set to manufacturer’s recommendation

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

occlusive - petroleum gauze secured with tape

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

Ineffective breathing pattern, Anxiety