

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?
 - **Focal assessments for a patient with a chest tube include lung sounds, FOCA- fluctuation, output, color, air leak & DOPE- dislodgment, obstruction, pneumo, and equipment**

2. Define the term “tidaling”.
 - The term tidaling is used to describe water in the water-seal chamber rising with inhalation and falling with exhalation which can often be seen in the drainage unit or chest tube showing patency.**

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?
 - Tidaling might fail to occur if the drainage system is blocked or occluded caused by lungs during rexpansion or if the system is attached to suction**

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.
 - Chest tube bubbling means that air is entering or leaving the chest drain. Intermittent= normal, Continuous = airleak**

5. What causes bubbling?
 - **Bubbling can be caused by an air leak in a drainage system or a leak from the client known as a bronchopleural leak**

6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
 - Keep all tubing free of kinks, check tubing beneath client or pinched on bed/equipment, prevent fluid filled loops, keep below chest, have clamps and Vaseline gauze available for safety, document output, keeping insertion site sterile.**

7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?
 - **A generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system is 20cm H₂O**
8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?
 - **The suction regulator should be set to 80-100 mmHg**
9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?
 - **A petroleum gauze held in place by a 4x4 sterile gauze secured with sterile tape**
10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.
 - **Impaired gas exchange & Acute pain**