

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?
Lung sounds; pain; fluctuation; output; color; air leak (bubbles?); dislodgement; obstruction; pneumothorax; equipment
2. Define the term “tidaling”.
Water in the water seal chamber may rise with inhalation and fall with exhalation
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?
Tubing is kinked or clamped, or a dependent tubing section has become filled with fluid
4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.
Bubbling is normal at the end of expiration in spontaneously breathing clients with a pneumothorax and normal at peak inspiration in ventilated clients with pneumothorax
5. What causes bubbling?
Air that is trapped is being removed, however continuous bubbling could suggest an air leak
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
Keep chambers upright and below insertion site; keeping the clamp open; documenting output; maintaining a closed sterile system
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?
80-100mmHg
9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?
Petroleum gauze held in place by a 4x4 sterile gauze and secured with sterile tape
10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.
 1. **Acute Pain**
 2. **Impaired Gas Exchange**