

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: Fluctuation, Output, Color, Air Leak

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

Tidaling is when the water level in the water seal chamber rises and falls according to respirations. Rises with inspiration and falls with exhalation.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

The tubing is kinked, clamped, or filled with fluid.

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Bubbling is when the water seal chamber has continuous or intermittent bubbles occurring in the chamber.

5. What causes bubbling?

Air leak.

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

Verify all tubing is connected, chest tube is secured, and drainage device is below the level of the chest.

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

Negative Pressure.

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

Wet suction: -20

Dry suction: -100

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

Occlusive dressing, petroleum gauze held in place by a secondary dressing of sterile sponge gauze.

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

Acute pain, Ineffective breathing pattern, Deficient fluid volume.