

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?

Frequent VS, breath sounds, pain, RR, color, symmetry of breathing, tube drainage, tidaling

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

Rise and fall of fluid within a closed chest drainage system on inhalation and exhalation

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

lung re-expansion, air leak, dependent tubing hangs before the rest of the tubing, or when suction is not working

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

see continuous bubbles in the water chamber, or intermittent bubbling

5. What causes bubbling?

air leak in the closed chamber

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

HOB 30 degrees or higher, no kinking of tube, secure to chest wall with ambulation

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

-20

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

-10 to -40

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

sterile occlusive dressing

10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.
Risk for infection, Impaired gas exchange