

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?
 - a. FOCA, DOPE

2. Define the term “tidaling”.
 - a. Normal fluctuation of the water within the water-seal chamber. Up and down movement of the water in concert with respiration reflects intrapleural pressure changes during inspiration and expiration

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?
 - a. Occluded chest tube

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.
 - a. Air leak in the atrium draining system causing the water in the vestibule to bubble

5. What causes bubbling?
 - a. Increased intrathoracic pressure (coughing, exhaling, sneezing) or air leak

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

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

a. -20cm H₂O

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

a. -20cm H₂O

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

a. 3 sided sterile petroleum gauze

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

a. Risk for infection and impaired gas exchange