

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?

VS (SPO₂), pain level, breath sounds, pain level, respiratory effort, chest tube drainage (color, amount, clots).

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

The rise and fall of fluid within closed chest drainage system on inhalation and exhalation.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

When the lungs re-expand when a air leak is present. When suction isn't working.

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Continuous bubble in the water chamber or intermittent/occasional bubbling.

5. What causes bubbling?

An air leak in the closed system, can see bubbling with forceful expiration and coughing.

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

- **keep HOB 30* or greater**
- **Prevent kinking/occlusions.**
- **Make sure that it's secure to chest wall to prevent air leaks.**

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.

Impaired Gas Exchange and risk for infection