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, breath sounds, respiratory effort and symmetry, drainage, and tidaling.

2. Define the term "tidaling".

   The rise and fall of fluid within the drainage system during inhalation and exhalation.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

   Re-expansion of the lung, leaking of air, and if suction is not working.

4. Define/describe the term "bubbling".

   Continuous or intermittent bubbling occurring within the water chamber.

5. What causes bubbling?
   Continuous bubbling occurs often due to an air leak within the system, intermittent or occasional bubbling can be caused due to coughing or forceful expirations.

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

   Maintain HOB greater than 30 degrees, prevention of kinking, securing the tube to chest, prevention of infection!

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

   The suction pressure commonly ordered is -20.

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

   The wall suction regulator should be set to -10 to -40.

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

   The patient should have a STERILE occlusive dressing with a chest tube.

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

    Impaired Gas Exchange & Risk for Infection