

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?

Chest tube drainage system (color, amount, tidaling), pain level, respiratory effort, VS

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

The rise and fall of water in a water-seal chamber with inhalation and exhalation

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

When the tube is kinked or clamped, the dependent tubing is filled with fluid, and when there is complete lung expansion

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

There can either be continuous bubbling, or periodic bubbling. Continuous bubbling is indicative of an air leak, while periodic is normal and indicates that trapped air is being removed

5. What causes bubbling?

Bubbling occurs if there is an air leak in the drainage system and air is escaping the pleural space

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

Prevent kinking or occlusion

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