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**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, insertion site/position, characteristics and amount of fluid drainage, respiratory distress and chest pain, drainage system and connections, water seal, and patient's physical and psychological status.

2. Define the term "tidaling".

Tidaling is the fluctuation of fluid in the water seal chamber that corresponds w/ the patient's respiratory cycle.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

The lung is fully expanded, there is chest tube obstruction, clamped or kinked tubing, or the drainage system is not positioned below the level of the chest.

4. Define/describe the term "bubbling".

Bubbling refers to the presence of air bubbles in the water seal chamber of the chest drainage system.

5. What causes bubbling?

Bubbling is caused by air leaks from an unresolved pneumothorax, the chest tube insertion site, a pleural injury, an exposed tube eyelet, or inappropriate communication between the bronchial and pleural spaces.

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

An acceptable safety measure is to tape all connections securely to prevent accidental disconnection.

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

Generally -10 to -20 cm H₂O

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

Between 80-120 mmHg

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

An occlusive dressing w/ sterile 4x4 gauze impregnated w/ petroleum jelly should be used for a chest tube dressing.

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

1. Ineffective Breathing Pattern

2. Risk for Infection