

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, SpO_2 , skin color, respiratory effort, dressing, tubing for kinks
2. Define the term "tidaling".
↳ movement of the fluid level with respirations of the pt
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?
lung expansion or obstruction
4. Define/describe the term "bubbling".
bubbles flowing in the water seal chamber
5. What causes bubbling?
continuous bubbling = air leak
spontaneous = w/ exhalation, sneezing, coughing
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
ensure system below pt, ensure no kinks or obstructions
↳ insertion site
7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?

- 20 cm H_2O
8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?

80-100 mm Hg
9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?

occlusive dressing w/ petroleum impregnated gauze
10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.

Ineffective breathing pattern / Impaired Gas Exchange
Acute Pain
Risk for infection