

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?

Fluctuation, Output, Color, Air leak, Expansion, contusions, open wounds, inequality of breath sounds, symmetry of chest wall movement

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

The term tidaling indicates that there is a rise and fall of water in the water- seal chamber when the client is inhaling/exhaling. This means that the chest tube is patent and functioning properly.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

Tidaling can fail to occur if the tube is obstructed or improperly positioned.

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

The term bubbling refers to signs that the chest tube is not working or removing air from pleural space. This demonstrates too much patency of the chest tube. Intermittent bubbling indicates small air leak. However, if continuous bubbling can indicate a definitive air leakage.

5. What causes bubbling?

An air leak can cause bubbling.

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

An acceptable safety measure is taping all tubing connections.

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

The generally ordered suction pressure is 80-100 mmHg wall suction.

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

The pressure should be set to low intermittent suction.

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

A gauze dressing is what 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.

Impaired Gas Exchange

Risk for Infection