

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?
• Respiratory assessment, RR, sounds, O₂ sats, CO₂ capnography, LOC
2. Define the term “tidaling”.
When the fluid in the chest tube tides up and down with the respiratory rate of the patient
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?
The tube is not properly positioned, obstruction, or the patient isn't breathing
4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.
When there is air that escaped into the chest tube
5. What causes bubbling?
There is an air leak
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
They must be organized and labeled and secured.
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?
16 h
9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?
sterile occlusive dressing like vaseline gauze
10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.
Impaired gas exchange, risk for infection