

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?

Monitoring the drainage system the chest tube insertion site, patient vital signs, breath sounds, and oxygen saturation,

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

Tidaling is the water level in the water seal chamber of the chest tube drainage system going up and down. This shows you the patient’s breathing pattern.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

Tidaling is a normal sign that the chest tube drainage system is working properly if it is not present it is indicative that the system is not working properly. This can be due to a kink or a clog in the system.

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Bubbling is bubbles in the water seal chamber.

5. What causes bubbling?

An air leak causes bubbling.

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

There are multiple safety measures that should be taken such as securing the connection with tape or tie, keeping the system below the patient’s chest, keeping the system as a closed system and monitoring for leaks or kinks.

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

-20 in the commonly ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system.

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

The wall suction regulator should be set to -20.

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

Petroleum jelly impregnated gauze, Transparent adhesive dressing and a sterile gauze.

10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.
Decreased Cardiac output and Acute Pain.