

PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 09/02

SUBJECT: PLEURAL TENCKHOFF CATHETER (CHEST TUBE) CARE OF

PURPOSE: To drain fluid from space surrounding lungs.

Considerations

1. Process for care of tube, draining fluid from catheter.
2. Patient or caregiver will be taught principles of aseptic technique and process for draining fluid, care of tube, recording data, dressing change.
3. Patient/caregiver will be taught s/s to report. These include respiratory changes, cough, pain, abnormal drainage, bleeding in catheter, odors.

| <i>Necessary Equipment</i> | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sterile gloves, clean gloves | Protective sheet |
| 4x4 or drain | Alcohol wipe |
| Sponge | Syringe with needle |
| Tape | Sharps container |
| Povidine ointment | Cup to measure fluid |
| Doubled waste bag | |

| <i>Procedure</i> | <i>Rationale</i> |
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| 1. Assess vital signs and lung sounds | To have baseline information before and after procedure |
| 2. Wash hands | Prevent cross-contamination |
| 3. Explain procedure | To gain patient cooperation and decrease anxiety |
| 4. Assemble supplies | |
| 5. Have patient assume comfortable position and place protective sheet under patient | Decrease anxiety; to protect linen and tubing; to provide a clean working field |
| 6. Apply clean gloves | |
| 7. Remove dressing; dispose in waste container | |
| 8. Assess tube and insert in sight | To note changes in patient's condition and for baseline |
| 9. Apply sterile gloves | |
| 10. Remove catheter cap | |
| 11. Wipe off end of catheter with alcohol wipe | To prevent infection |
| 12. Insert tip of syringe into catheter | |
| 13. Pull on plunger; remove fluid, drain dry, empty into measuring cup | |
| 14. Recap end of catheter | |
| 15. Record fluid amount removed, color, consistency, odor | To provide an ongoing record of dressing |
| 16. Dispose of fluid in the toilet | Proper waste disposal |
| 17. Dispose of syringe in sharps container | Proper waste disposal |
| 18. Dispose of sheet, gloves, etc., in double bag | Proper waste disposal |
| 19. Apply clean gloves; wash with soap and H ₂ O and apply povidine iodine to peripheral skin | |
| 20. Apply dressing to tube site | |
| 21. Secure with tape | |
| 22. Instruct patient or caregiver to observe for respiratory distress, pain, increased dressing at insert site and report to physician | |
| 23. Instruct s/s infection | |
| 24. Wash hands | |
| 25. Document procedure, amount of asp fluid, color, consistency, and patient tolerance | |
| 26. Assess vital signs and lung sounds | |