

WET VS DRY CHEST TUBE COMPARISON



LEARNING TIP:

Chest drainage with use of suction removes air or fluid from the pleural space and recreates negative pressure.

CLINICAL TIP:

Amount of suction is dependent on the provider order, be sure to check prior to connecting suction to patient.

Wet suction:

Gentle bubbling in suction control indicates suction is working.

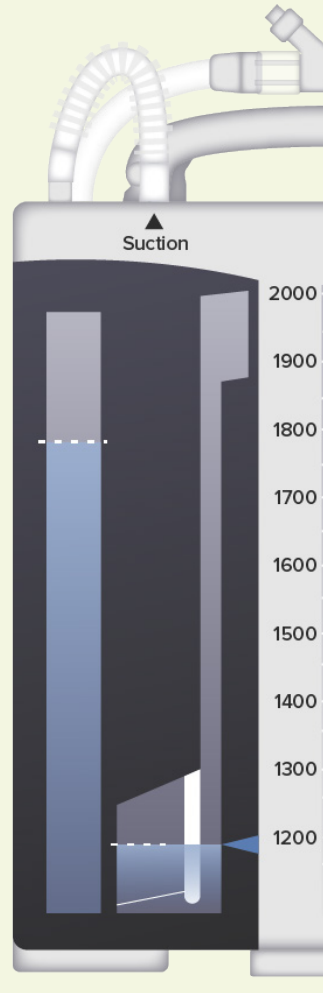
Water level controls negative pressure. As water evaporates, the negative pressure can change, so it is important to check water level frequently.

Considerations:

- Water evaporation
- Longer set up time
- If system is knocked over, water can get into other chambers.

LEARNING TIP:

Water level indicates amount of suction (e.g. - 20 cm H₂O).



Dry suction:

Silent system. Bubbling indicates a leak.

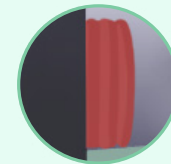
Self-regulating. Negative pressure is controlled by vents and controlled release system, can be set to suction or gravity.

Considerations:

- Wider range of suction levels
- Quieter
- Faster setup

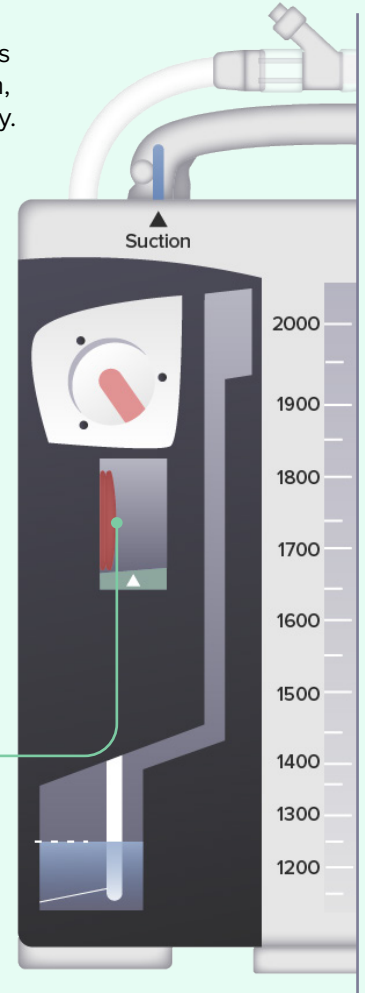
CLINICAL TIP:

Orange bellow inflated indicates the patient is connected to suction.



LEARNING TIP:

Suction is controlled by the dial.



CLINICAL SAFETY TIPS:

1. Both wet and dry suction have air leak chambers in the bottom left corner. Higher numbers indicate worsening air leaks.
2. Never lift drain above chest level.

NOTES

