Capnography During Pre-Hospital Care etCO₂ Waveform Guide



Normal waveform9

Phases of ventilation



A-B: Dead space ventilation, beginning of exhalation

B-C: Rapid rise in CO₂, early exhalation

D: Alveolar plateau, end of expiration, end tidal CO₂ (etCO₂)

D-E: Inhalation

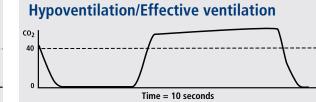
Ventilatory patterns

Tachypnea/Hypocarbia

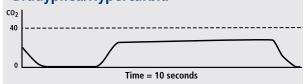


Time = 10 seconds

Time = 10 seconds

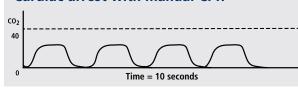


Bradypnea/Hypercarbia

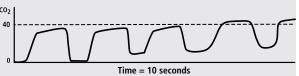


Waveforms in acute disease

Cardiac arrest with manual CPR



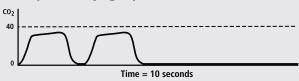




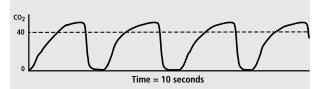
Shallow ventilation/Low tidal volume



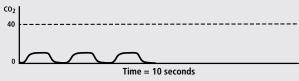
Complete airway obstruction or complete laryngospasm



Asthma and emphysema



Low perfusion state, inadequate cuff seal on endotracheal tube



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- Falk, J.L., Rackow, E.C., Weil, M.H. End-tidal carbon dioxide concentration during cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The New England Journal of Medicine, 1999, 318 (10), 607-611.
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- 8. Blonshine, S., New Applications of Capnography, AARC Times, February 1999, 51-53.
- Krauss, Capnography: An Emerging Standard of Care in EMS, Today's Emergency, Volume 12, No. 2, Summer 2006, 38-42.
 - Essential Monitoring Strategies to Detect Clinically Significant Drug- Induced Respiratory Depression in the Postoperative Period. Prepared by Stoelting R and Overdyk F. http://www.apsf.org/announcements. ohp?id=7.
- Krauss, B., Capnography as a Rapid Assessment and Triage Tool for Chemical Terrorism, Pediatric Emergency Care, Volume 21, Number 8, August 2005.

Intubated Applications/ Advanced Airway Placement¹⁻³

Verify ETT placement and ensure continuous ETT position during transport

Ensure continuous ETT position during transport

Effectiveness of cardiac compression

- Gauge of ICP in isolated head injury
- One of the earliest signs of ROSC⁴⁻⁶

Non-Intubated Applications⁷⁻¹⁰

Monitor Ventilation Status:

- Obstructive Lung Disease (asthma/COPD)
- Pulmonary Edema/CHF
- Overdose
- Post-ictal/seizure
- Respiratory failure
- Sedation/analgesia

Monitor Perfusion Status: Trending tool for hypoperfusion states

- Sepsis
- Hypovolemia
- Stable vs. unstable tachycardia (trending tool)
- Pacing: mechanical vs. electrical capture

Rapid Assessment and Triage Tool¹¹

- Critically ill patients
- Chemical terrorism

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