Capnography: More Than Just Tube Placement Confirmation

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Jim Sage started in EMS 23 years ago. He is nationally registered and holds certifications in multiple states. Jim is also a certified flight paramedic. He has served multiple communities, gaining experience in rural and urban EMS as well as critical care transport. During this time, he held roles in supervision, quality management, and education. Jim started in air medicine 12 years ago, where he continues with high performance EMS and critical care transport.

In this presentation, we will review waveform capnography and see that there is more to it than just ETT placement confirmation. We will discuss and review the multitude of uses for End Tidal measurement. This will help us assess our patients with normal, high, and low capnography readings. We will also take a brief look at what the waveforms are telling us about our patient and how they can guide our care.

Presentation Outline:
1. Capnography Definition
   a. Where does CO2 come from?
2. What do we measure and How?
3. What is normal?
   a. Does this tell us our patient is fine?
4. What is high?
   a. What does it tell us?
   b. When is high OK?
5. What is low?
   a. What does it tell us?
   b. When is low OK?
6. Quick look at wave forms.

Objective 1: Recall what is being measured with waveform capnography.
Objective 2: Describe when a low End Tidal value is desirable.
Objective 3: Describe when a high End Tidal value is desirable.