EASY CAP ETCO2 DETECTOR

DESCRIPTION:
The Easy Cap ETCO2 detector is a tool for assessing placement of the endotracheal tube after intubation. When used properly following intubations or during transport, it can aid in the detection of unrecognized esophageal intubations.

POLICY:
All patients intubated in the ER, or admitted to the ER with endotracheal tube in place, and all patients intubated in the SICU will be assessed with the Easy CAP ETCO2 detector in addition to other tools of assessing proper intubation such as auscultation and chest x-ray. The Easy Cap will also be available on all crash carts in the hospital.

PROCEDURE:
- Obtain an Easy Cap ETCO2 detector from the crash cart or intubation tray.
  (Note: Pediatric model also available.)
- After intubation, connect the Easy Cap between the endotracheal tube and the resuscitation bag. Deliver six breaths (to allow for washout of retained CO2 in case of esophageal intubation) and observe color change.
- Purple range = 0.03% to 0.5% CO2
  Tan range = 0.5% to 2% CO2
  Yellow range = 2% to 5% CO2
- The normal color pattern should alternate between purple (on inspiration) and yellow (on expiration).
- A constant purple color on inspiration and expiration indicates that the ET-tube is not in the trachea or there is no pulmonary perfusion.
- A tan color on expiration could indicate esophageal intubation with retained CO2 or could indicate proper tracheal intubation with a condition of low pulmonary blood flow. In this case, other assessment tools such as auscultation and chest x-ray should also be used.
- Easy Cap ETCO2 assessment should be documented (describe the color change) along with the assessment of breath sounds in the intubation procedure note.
- The Easy Cap may be used for up to two (2) hours for monitoring during continued CPR and transport. After this time the Easy Cap shall be discarded.

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