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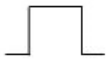
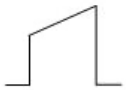
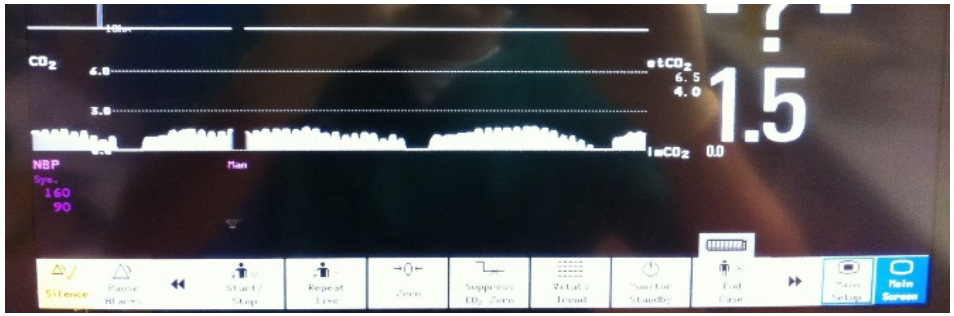
Capnography: No Trace = Wrong Place!

Good	Bad
 Top hat – good Indicates: • clear unobstructed airway	 Dunce hat – bad Indicates : • significant leak
 Ascot hat – OK Indicates: • bronchospasm • partially obstructed airway	No hat – very bad Indicates: • dislodged/displaced tracheal tube or tracheostomy • oesophageal intubation • lack of ventilation



If no capnograph trace ⇒ actively exclude oesophageal intubation

- Visualise larynx ideally with videolaryngoscope +/- reintubate
- Visualise tracheal rings using flexible bronchoscope

Then consider…

- Tracheal tube/tracheostomy displaced, blocked or kinked
- Lack of ventilation
- Severe bronchospasm
- Capnography tubing disconnected/kinked

Capnography trace in cardiac arrest may look attenuated but *should still be present*

Remember 'Posh hats are best in Bath!'

https://rcoa.ac.uk/safety-standards-quality/guidance-resources/capnography-no-trace-wrong-place

Cook TM, Kelly FE, Goswami A. *Anaesthesia* 2013; **68**: 421