Endtitle CO^2 Study Guide

5 Things to Know About Capnography Cardiac Arrest

1. Loss of ETCO2 May Be the First Sign That CPR Is Needed
   - Most reliable pre-hospital monitoring device to detect the immediate loss of circulation
   - Heart stops, waveform will disappear and ETCO2 reading will change to zero

2. ETCO2 Measures CPR
   - Consistent, high quality CPR is essential for successful resuscitation
   - ETCO2 provides feedback on how effective compressions are
   - Higher ETCO2 during resuscitation shows improved cardiac output and patient outcomes
   - Reading above 15mm HG indicates compressions are adequate, but the higher the better
   - Low ETCO2 below 10mm HG may be caused by poor compression technique or low perfusion

3. Confirms Airway Placement
   - Waveform capnography is the most reliable method to confirm placement

4. Waveform Helps to Determine When to Terminate
   - ETCO2 can help differentiate when efforts should continue and when to stop
   - Patients receiving high quality CPR with advanced airway with a persistent ETCO2 below 10mm HG is an indication to terminate efforts
   - High ETCO2 shows CPR is effective and providing effective circulation to vital organs
   - ETCO2 above 15mm HG, and increasing from baseline, is an indication to continue resuscitation efforts

5. Spike in ETCO2 reading is first sign of ROSC
   - Loss of ROSC can be a sign of re-arrest or tube displacement