Hey, I’m Stephen Cital RVT, SRA, RLAT, VCCS, VTS-LAM (Resident Anesthesia) and I help run the Veterinary Anesthesia Nerds page. As an anesthesia expert people ask me all the time, “What is the most important monitoring device?”.

While that is a tricky answer because you, as the anesthetist, are the best “monitor”, there is one piece of machinery we use that provides us with a ton of information compared to all the rest. If you were to ask a room full of anesthesiologists and anesthetists to choose only one device for monitoring, they’d likely say EtCO2. With the EtCO2 we get an idea of perfusion and with that BP. We can ensure the patient is breathing. If they’re breathing they have a heartbeat. We get an idea of temperature and anesthetic depth and how to increase or decrease our ventilatory efforts. We can understand based on the EtCO2 reading if our medications are being metabolized based on the patient’s acid base status. If your practice doesn’t have EtCO2 I would recommend one of these products; the EMMA or the Rad 97 by Masimo. They are small, can take a beating and are economical. They are the perfect introduction to capnography.

I personally take my EMMA everywhere. I have used it in the field with giant eland and chimpanzees, as well as in the hospital with small birds and coati. With its pediatric adaptor (dead space of only 1ml) and adult adaptor we can utilize this device for just about any size animal. It is also a permanent piece of equipment in our CPR crash cart as well. We know based on the Veterinary Critical Care Society RECOVER initiative that monitoring EtCO2 can help guide how effect we are during CPR. As one can see, EtCO2 is not to be ignored. From one device we get the whole picture of our patient at their most vulnerable time.

EMMA™ CAPNOGRAPH

Immediate capnography at your fingertips
• Immediate results
• Continuous capnogram
• Small, portable capnograph
• Flexible use at multiple points of care
• Helps clinicians assess the effectiveness of CPR and guide ventilation
• Rugged, water-resistant design
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