Normal Capnogram
The normal capnogram is a waveform which represents the varying CO2 level throughout the breath cycle.

Waveform Characteristics:
A-B: Baseline
B-C: Expiratory Upstroke
C-D: Expiratory Plateau
D: End-Tidal Concentration
D-E: Inspiration

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Bronchospasm/Asthma
Other Possible Causes:
- Bronchospasm/COPD
- Obstruction in the expiratory limb of the breathing circuit
- Presence of a foreign body in the upper airway
- Partially kinked or occluded artificial airway

*Increasing etCO2 (Hypoventilation)
Other Possible Causes:
- Decrease in respiratory rate
- Decrease in tidal volume
- Increase in metabolic rate
- Rapid rise in body temperature (malignant hyperthermia)

*Decreasing etCO2 (Hyperventilation)
Other Possible Causes:
- Increase in respiratory rate
- Increase in tidal volume
- Metabolic acidosis
- Fall in body temperature

Rebreathing CO2
Other Possible Causes:
- Faulty expiratory valve
- Inadequate inspiratory flow
- Partial rebreathing
- Insufficient expiratory time

Curare Cleft
Other Possible Causes:
- Patient is mechanically ventilated
- Depth of cleft is inversely proportional to degree of muscle relaxants

Cardiac Arrest
Other Possible Causes:
- Decreased or absent cardiac output
- Decreased or absent pulmonary blood flow
- Sudden decrease in CO2 values

Return of Spontaneous Circulation
Other Possible Causes:
- Increase in cardiac output
- Increase in pulmonary blood flow
- Gradual increase in CO2 production

*Assumes adequate circulation and alveolar gas exchange