Medical Image of the Week: Undulating Arterial Waveform

Figure 1. Arterial line and oxygen saturation tracings demonstrating variability with inspiration, a sign of volume responsiveness.

Volume responsiveness assessed by variation in arterial line tracing demonstrating either stroke volume variation, systolic pressure variation, or pulse pressure variation has been shown to be far superior to traditional static indicators of preload responsiveness as they consider cardiopulmonary interactions (1). Additionally, variability in the O2 sat tracing has also been shown to be a reliable indicator of volume responsiveness (2).

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References