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Summary

Advanced monitoring and capnography

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Nurses

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A nurse-led initiative at Freeman Hospital Newcastle successfully implemented capnography monitoring for therapeutic ERCP patients in a non-anaesthetic endoscopy setting, demonstrating that enhanced respiratory monitoring supports proactive patient safety during deeper sedation.

KEY POINTS

- After a two-year trial beginning in 2023, capnography is now routine practice for all ERCP and therapeutic endoscopy patients, used in both procedure rooms and recovery areas.
- The speaker reported that capnography detects hypoventilation, apnoea, and airway obstruction approximately four minutes earlier than pulse oximetry detects oxygen desaturation, enabling earlier intervention.
- The British Society of Gastroenterology 2023 guidelines recommend capnography plus ECG for patients receiving deeper sedation not involving propofol or general anaesthesia, according to the speaker.
- The speaker stated that a British Society of Gastroenterology audit found 33 percent of ERCP patients receive more than 5.5 mg of midazolam, increasing the risk of requiring reversal agents.
- Structured training including face-to-face sessions on waveform interpretation, online modules, and national sedation courses was essential for nursing staff confidence and competency.
- The speaker emphasized that nurse-led practice change, supported by clinician buy-in, can drive sustainable improvements in patient safety as endoscopic procedures become longer and more complex.

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