

Ventilator Troubleshooting DOPES

Sudden deterioration after intubation

Fluids & ICU

PHYSICIAN REFERENCE

DOPES

- Displacement, Obstruction, Pneumothorax, Equipment failure, Stacking/auto-PEEP.

Immediate

- Assess patient first; disconnect and hand-ventilate if needed while troubleshooting; check tube depth/patency and chest movement.

Use data

- Waveforms, peak vs plateau pressure, capnography, ultrasound and CXR as appropriate.

Clinical safety note

Use this as a memory aid, not a prescription. Verify current guidelines, local protocols, contraindications, renal/hepatic dosing, pregnancy status, interactions and patient-specific factors before treatment.