



normal icp
pressure
waveform

icp
monitoring

icp
waveform
abnormalities

Waveform characteristic	Significance
'A' waves or plateau waves—high amplitude waves of 50–100 mmHg sustained for up to 15 minutes	Raised ICP with compromised cerebral blood flow
'B' waves — 'saw-tooth' appearance with small changes in pressure every 0.5–2 minutes	Poor intracranial compliance
'C' waves—low amplitude oscillations up to 20 mmHg for approximately 1 minute with a frequency of approximately 5 per minute	May be normal Associated with variations in vasomotor tone
Flat ICP trace	Damped trace from blockage of an intraventricular catheter or compression or kinking of the transducer
Elevated P2 with a rounded appearance of the waveform. The three distinct parts of each waveform are lost	Raised ICP