Balloon Pump Waveforms
What to look for on IABP tracings

- Ensure the timing is correct and the balloon waveform appears at the dicrotic notch
- What is the support ratio (1:1, 1:2, 1:3, etc)
- Is the balloon having the intended effect
Intended effect

• Balloon end diastolic pressure (A) should be higher than the systolic pressure (B)
  – This shows the balloon is augmenting the circulatory bloodflow

• Augmented systolic pressure (C) should be lower than the unaugmented systolic pressure (D)
  – This shows the balloon is reducing afterload (workload of the heart), therefore reducing myocardial oxygen demand