

IV GTN PROTOCOL FOR EARLY MANAGEMENT OF HYPERTENSION
IN ACUTE STROKE (up to 48 hours)

Target BP:
Ischaemic Stroke Thrombolysis less than 185/110mmHg
Non-traumatic haemorrhage less than 140mmHg

Systolic blood pressure above relevant threshold
for **TWO** consecutive readings

Start GTN INFUSION at
1.2 ml/hr

Measure BP & HR: 5, 10, 20 & 30
mins after infusion starts
and/or after any rate change, then
every 30 mins thereafter
(1 hourly if no rate change for 1 hr)

CONTINUE GTN INFUSION RATE
If target achieved
Ischaemic 160-185mmHg
Haemorrhage 120-140mmHg

TAPER GTN INFUSION RATE
(by 0.3ml/hr)
Ischaemic SBP less than 160mmHg
Haemorrhage SBP less than
120mmHg

STOP GTN INFUSION
SBP less than 110mmHg
(monitor BP closely)

SBP less
than
target?

YES

NO

**TITRATE GTN INFUSION
RATE**
If SBP remains above
target, increase rate by
0.6ml/hr

Rate at max
12ml/hr

YES

NO

If BP greater than
target at 12ml/hr,
contact Stroke
team

Aim to wean off GTN infusion within 48 hours.

Once infusion stopped - titrate oral/NG
medications rather than restarting infusion.