

STANDARD Treatment Titration

Nicardipine Drip Study Drug Titration Chart				
Goal: Reduce blood pressure and maintain SBP in range of 140-180 mm Hg (Target 160mmHg)				
Elapsed time in: Hours:minutes from start of nicardipine drip infusion	SBP, in mm Hg (use final of multiple readings)	Nicardipine, mg/hour	Nicardipine 20mg/200 mL drip rate in mL/hour	Comments
00:00	>180 & <240	5 (initial rate)	50	Monitor BP every 5 minutes
00:15	If still >180*	Increase to 7.5	75	Monitor BP every 5-15 minutes Once patient reaches SBP goal of <180 mm Hg, titrate to keep SBP within 140-180mm Hg range, Target 160mmHg* If SBP falls below 140mm Hg, decrease drip rate by 1-2.5 mg/hr until SBP returns to 140-180mm Hg target range (or nicardipine is discontinued) Do not give a saline fluid bolus unless SBP falls below 110mm Hg. For patients with elevated ICP, CPP should not fall below 70 mm Hg.
00:30	If still >180*	Increase to 10	100	
00:45	If still >180*	Increase to 12.5	125	
01:00	If still >180*	Increase to 15 (maximum rate)	150 (max rate)	
01:15	If still >180*	Monitor at 15	150 (max rate)	
01:30	If still >180*	Use labetalol 5-20mg IV bolus q 15 min in addition to max rate for 1 hour	150	
> 02:30	If still > 180*	Consider 3 rd drug option	150	Again check lines; consider 3rd drug option if still showing insufficient response to max doses of nicardipine + labetalol Once patient has stable BP within target range, monitor BP every 30 min for 24 hours

*Once the upper target SBP (180 mm Hg for the standard treatment group) is reached, infusion rate of nicardipine is adjusted by 1-2.5 mg/hour to maintain SBP within the target range of 140-180 mm Hg (Target 160mmHg).