

# Nitroglycerin

Nitroglycerin (also known as glyceryl trinitrate (GTN)), a vasodilator best known for treatment of ischemic heart disease, has also been investigated for its potential therapeutic benefit in [ischemic stroke](#).

Raises [ICP](#) (less than with [nitroprusside](#) due to preferential venous action) <sup>1)</sup>.

This agent produces a rapid, controllable, but not precipitous fall in blood pressure without rebound, is non-toxic, may not alter cerebrovascular autoregulation, and does not raise intracranial pressure <sup>2)</sup>.

## Dosage

5 mcg/min

Increase by 5 mcg/min q3-5min up to 20 mcg/min, THEN

Increase by 10 mcg/min

May later increase by 20 mcg/min

Higher dosages required for PVC admin sets

Uninterrupted infusion >24 hours produces tolerance

<sup>1)</sup>

Cottrell JE, Patel K, Turndorf H, Ransohoff J. Intracranial pressure changes induced by sodium nitroprusside in patients with intracranial mass lesions. J Neurosurg. 1978 Mar;48(3):329-31. PubMed PMID: 632856.

<sup>2)</sup>

Chestnut JS, Albin MS, Gonzalez-Abola E, Newfield P, Maroon JC. Clinical evaluation of intravenous nitroglycerin for neurosurgery. J Neurosurg. 1978 May;48(5):704-11. PubMed PMID: 417150.

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