

Subarachnoid hemorrhage treatment

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The [management](#) of [subarachnoid hemorrhage](#) (SAH) depends on the underlying cause, with [aneurysmal](#) SAH being the most common and life-threatening type. The approach includes initial stabilization, diagnosis, definitive treatment of the aneurysm (if present), and prevention of complications.

Initial Stabilization

Airway & Breathing: Intubate if there is decreased consciousness (GCS ≤ 8) or respiratory compromise.

Circulation: Maintain euvolemia and prevent hypotension.

Blood Pressure Control:

Target SBP < 160 mmHg (or MAP < 110 mmHg) to reduce rebleeding risk.

Preferred agents: labetalol, nicardipine, or clevidipine (avoid nitroprusside or nitroglycerin as they may increase ICP).

Analgesia & Sedation: Opioids and short-acting sedatives may be used.

DVT Prophylaxis: Intermittent pneumatic compression devices.

Early intervention and treatment are essential to prevent long-term complications. Over the years, treatment of SAH has drastically improved, which is responsible for the rapid rise in SAH survivors. Post-SAH, a significant number of patients exhibit impairments in memory and executive function and

report high rates of depression and anxiety that ultimately affect daily living, return to work, and quality of life. Given the rise in SAH survivors, rehabilitation post-SAH to optimize patient outcomes becomes crucial ¹⁾

see [Aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage treatment](#).

see [Traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage treatment](#).

¹⁾

Nwafor DC, Kirby BD, Ralston JD, Colantonio MA, Ibekwe E, Lucke-Wold B. Neurocognitive Sequelae and Rehabilitation after Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: Optimizing Outcomes. J Vasc Dis. 2023 Jun;2(2):197-211. doi: 10.3390/jvd2020014. Epub 2023 Apr 1. PMID: 37082756; PMCID: PMC10111247.

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