

ICP Management

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ICP Physiology

- ▶ Four components of ICP related to :
 - ▶ Arterial blood flow
 - ▶ Venous blood flow
 - ▶ CSF circulation
 - ▶ Brain volumetric changes (including contusions)



Pathophysiology of Acquired Brain Injury

Traumatic causes:-

- Motor vehicles
- Falls
- Struck by/against
- Assaults

Acquired causes:-

- Ischemic
- Spontaneous ICH
- Aneurysm
- Hypoxia
- Infection
- Tumors



Cerebral Physiology

- ▶ Brain/Cranium: Average 1400g/1700ml
- ▶ Intracranial fluid content:-
 - CSF 150ml (25ml ventricles & 125ml in subarachnoid spaces)
- ▶ CBF: 45-60ml/100g/min
- ▶ CPP: 50-150mmHg (CPP=MAP-ICP)
- ▶ Cerebral metabolism:-
 - 25% body glucose, 20% body O₂ consumption, 15% cardiac output
- ▶ Intracranial temperature: 37.39-39.5°C
- ▶ ICP: 5-15mmHg in supine



Monro-kellie Doctrine(1824)

- ▶ Cerebral blood flow is passively control by the intracranial volume change.
- ▶ In an intact skull, the volume of the CSF, blood and brain is constant. An increase in one must result in a decrease in one or both of the other substances. (Harvey Cushing 1926)

Cerebral Hemodynamics

- ▶ Cerebral autoregulation:-

- ensures stable perfusion of the brain, independent of the systemic blood pressure.

- ▶ Vasomotor reactivity:-

- O₂ demand -> adapts hemodynamics to arterial CO₂/pH of the tissue.

- ▶ Neurovascular coupling:-

- Increase brain activity -> adapts the perfusion to increase metabolic demand.

(Woff M. Front Neurosci. 2015; 36:40-56)

Why Brain Temperature Higher than our Core Temperature?

- ▶ Human brain comprises about 20-25% of whole body energy budget. Possibly related to the brain's need in complex thinking and learning. Primates (8-10%), other mammals(3-5%)
- ▶ All the neuron activity affected by minute temperature variations:-
 - Ionic currents, membrane potential, input resistance, action potential, nerve conduction velocity, and synaptic transmission.
- ▶ CBF: Principal mechanism to maintain brain and body temperature coupling.
- ▶ Whole body cooling -> brain hypothermia -> decrease CBF
(Wang H et al. Front Neurosci. 2014; Oct (8); 307)

Pathophysiology of TBI

Primary and Secondary Brain Injury

- ▶ Primary brain injury (unavoidable injury)
- ▶ Secondary brain injury (Preventable damages)
 - Edema, Impaired metabolism, Altered CBF, Free radical formation, Excitotoxicity.
 - Systemic factors: Hypertension, Hypoxia, Anemia, Hyperthermia, Hypercapnia, Hyperglycemia, Acid-base imbalance, Metabolic disorders, Systemic inflammation and infection.
 - Intracranial factors: IICP, Space-occupying lesions, Brain edema, Cerebral vasospasm, Hydrocephalus, Intracranial infections, Seizures, acute attacks and NCSE (non-convulsive status epilepticus), decrease CBF, Cerebral metabolic dysfunction, Electrolytes imbalance, Free radical production.

CONFERENCE REPORTS AND EXPERT PANEL

A management algorithm for patients with intracranial pressure monitoring: the Seattle International Severe Traumatic Brain Injury Consensus Conference (SIBICC)



Gregory W. J. Hawryluk¹, Sergio Aguilera^{2,3}, Andras Buki^{4,5}, Eileen Bulger⁶, Giuseppe Citerio^{7,8}, D. Jamie Cooper^{9,10}, Ramon Diaz Arrastia¹¹, Michael Diringer^{12,13}, Anthony Figaji¹⁴, Guoyi Gao¹⁵, Romergryko Geocadin¹⁶, Jamshid Ghajar¹⁷, Odette Harris¹⁸, Alan Hoffer¹⁹, Peter Hutchinson²⁰, Mathew Joseph²¹, Ryan Kitagawa²², Geoffrey Manley²³, Stephan Mayer²⁴, David K. Menon²⁵, Geert Meyfroidt²⁶, Daniel B. Michael²⁷, Mauro Oddo²⁸, David Okonkwo²⁹, Mayur Patel³⁰, Claudia Robertson³¹, Jeffrey V. Rosenfeld^{32,33}, Andres M. Rubiano^{34,35}, Juan Sahuquillo³⁶, Franco Servadei³⁷, Lori Shutter³⁸, Deborah Stein³⁹, Nino Stocchetti^{40,41}, Fabio Silvio Taccone⁴², Shelly Timmons⁴³, Eve Tsai⁴⁴, Jamie S. Ullman⁴⁵, Paul Vespa^{46,47,48,49}, Walter Videtta⁵⁰, David W. Wright⁵¹, Christopher Zammit⁵² and Randall M. Chesnut^{53,54,55,56*}

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Tier Zero (Basic Severe TBI Care - Not ICP Dependent)

Expected Interventions:

- Admission to ICU
- Endotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation
- Serial evaluations of neurological status and pupillary reactivity
- Elevate HOB 30–45°
- Analgesia to manage signs of pain (not ICP directed)
- Sedation to prevent agitation, ventilator asynchrony, etc. (not ICP directed)
- Temperature management to prevent fever
 - Measure core temperature*
 - Treat core temperature above 38°C*
- Consider anti-seizure medications for 1w only (in the absence of an indication to continue)
- Maintain CPP initially ≥ 60 mmHg
- Maintain Hb > 7 g/dL
- Avoid hyponatremia
- Optimize venous return from head (eg. keeping head midline, ensure cervical collars are not too tight)
- Arterial line continuous blood pressure monitoring
- Maintain SpO₂ $\geq 94\%$

Recommended Interventions:

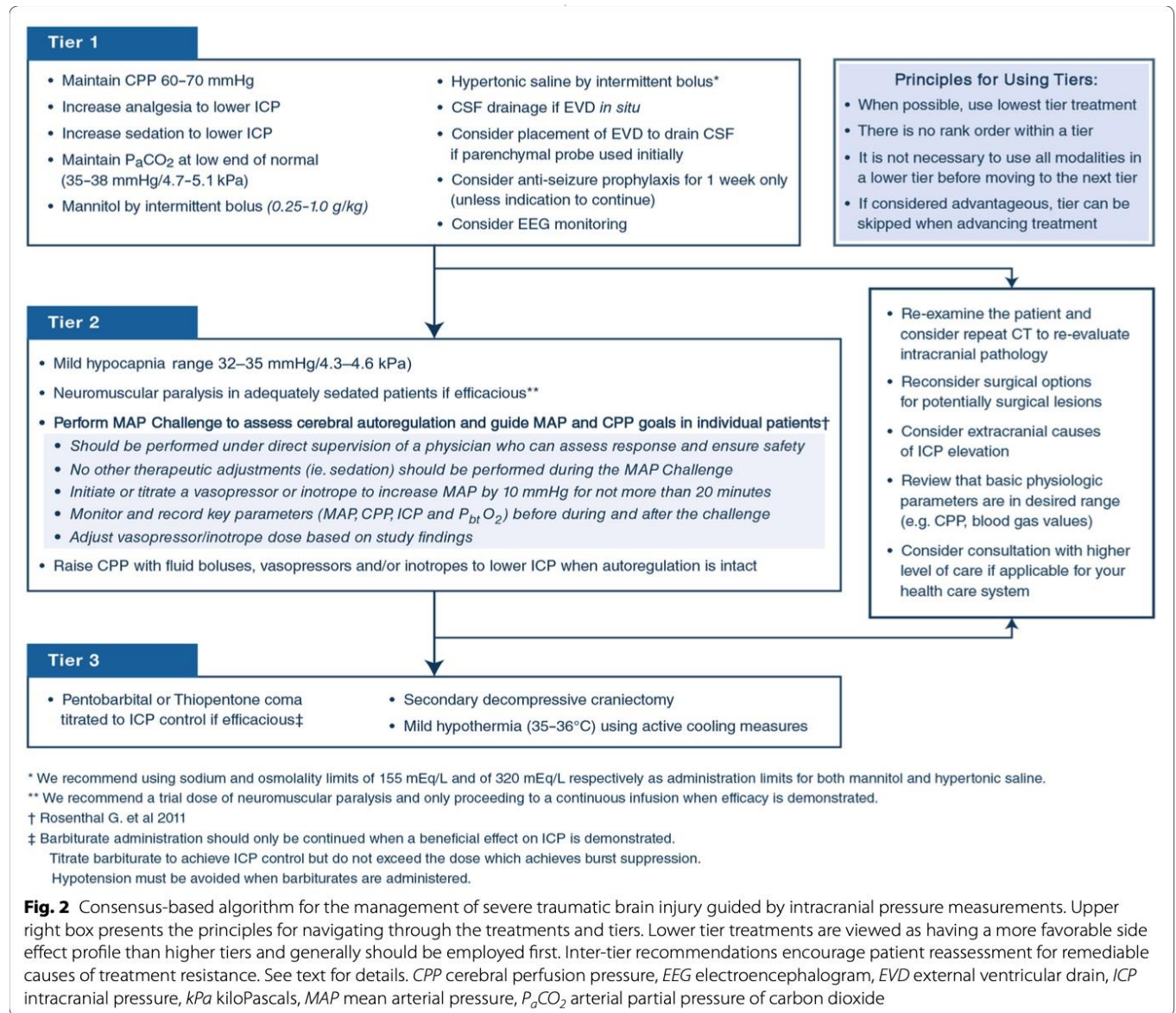
- Insertion of a central line
- End-tidal CO₂ monitoring

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- Arterial line continuous blood pressure monitoring
- Maintain SpO₂ $\geq 94\%$

Recommended Interventions:

- Insertion of a central line
- End-tidal CO₂ monitoring

Expected Interventions: Tier Zero (SIBICC)

- ▶ ICU admission
- ▶ Endotracheal intubation & mechanical ventilation
- ▶ Serial neurological evaluations
- ▶ HOB elevation (30-45°)
- ▶ Pain control (not ICP-directed)
- ▶ Sedation to prevent agitation (not ICP-directed)
- ▶ Treat fever $> 38^{\circ}\text{C}$
- ▶ Consider short-term anti-seizure medication (1 week)
- ▶ Maintain CPP $\geq 60\text{mmHg}$, Hb $> 7\text{g/dl}$, & SpO₂ $\geq 94\%$
- ▶ Avoid hyponatremia
- ▶ Optimize venous return from the head (keep head midline, not over-tight neck collar)
- ▶ Continuous arterial blood pressure monitoring
- ▶ Recommended Interventions: Central line insertion, End-tidal CO₂ monitoring

Tier 1

- Maintain CPP 60–70 mmHg
- Increase analgesia to lower ICP
- Increase sedation to lower ICP
- Maintain P_aCO_2 at low end of normal (35–38 mmHg/4.7–5.1 kPa)
- Mannitol by intermittent bolus (0.25–1.0 g/kg)
- Hypertonic saline by intermittent bolus*
- CSF drainage if EVD *in situ*
- Consider placement of EVD to drain CSF if parenchymal probe used initially
- Consider anti-seizure prophylaxis for 1 week only (unless indication to continue)
- Consider EEG monitoring

Principles for Using Tiers:

- When possible, use lowest tier treatment
- There is no rank order within a tier
- It is not necessary to use all modalities in a lower tier before moving to the next tier
- If considered advantageous, tier can be skipped when advancing treatment

Tier 2

- Mild hypocapnia range 32–35 mmHg/4.3–4.6 kPa)
- Neuromuscular paralysis in adequately sedated patients if efficacious**
- **Perform MAP Challenge to assess cerebral autoregulation and guide MAP and CPP goals in individual patients†**
 - *Should be performed under direct supervision of a physician who can assess response and ensure safety*
 - *No other therapeutic adjustments (ie. sedation) should be performed during the MAP Challenge*
 - *Initiate or titrate a vasopressor or inotrope to increase MAP by 10 mmHg for not more than 20 minutes*
 - *Monitor and record key parameters (MAP, CPP, ICP and $P_{bt}O_2$) before during and after the challenge*
 - *Adjust vasopressor/inotrope dose based on study findings*
- Raise CPP with fluid boluses, vasopressors and/or inotropes to lower ICP when autoregulation is intact

- Re-examine the patient and consider repeat CT to re-evaluate intracranial pathology
- Reconsider surgical options for potentially surgical lesions
- Consider extracranial causes of ICP elevation
- Review that basic physiologic parameters are in desired range (e.g. CPP, blood gas values)
- Consider consultation with higher level of care if applicable for your health care system

Tier 3

- Pentobarbital or Thiopentone coma titrated to ICP control if efficacious†
- Secondary decompressive craniectomy
- Mild hypothermia (35–36°C) using active cooling measures

* We recommend using sodium and osmolality limits of 155 mEq/L and of 320 mEq/L respectively as administration limits for both mannitol and hypertonic saline.

** We recommend a trial dose of neuromuscular paralysis and only proceeding to a continuous infusion when efficacy is demonstrated.

† Rosenthal G. et al 2011

‡ Barbiturate administration should only be continued when a beneficial effect on ICP is demonstrated.

Titrate barbiturate to achieve ICP control but do not exceed the dose which achieves burst suppression.

Hypotension must be avoided when barbiturates are administered.

Critical Neuroworsening

A serious deterioration in clinical neurologic status such as:

- Spontaneous decrease in the GCS motor score of ≥ 1 points (compared with the previous examination)
- New decrease in pupillary reactivity
- New pupillary asymmetry or bilateral mydriasis
- New focal motor deficit
- Herniation syndrome or Cushing's Triad which requires an immediate physician response

Response to Critical Neuroworsening

- Emergent evaluation to identify possible cause* of neuroworsening
- If herniation is suspected:
 - empiric treatment
 - hyperventilation**
 - bolus of hypertonic solution
 - consider emergent imaging or other testing
 - rapid escalation of treatment

* Possible causes of neuroworsening include:

- expanding intracranial mass lesion
- cerebral edema
- elevated ICP
- stroke
- electrolyte or other metabolic disturbance
- medical comorbidity
- medication effect
- impaired renal or hepatic function
- systemic hypotension
- seizure or post-ictal state
- hypoxemia/tissue hypoxia
- CNS infection
- infection or sepsis
- substance withdrawal
- dehydration
- hyper or hypothermia

** the hyperventilation PaCO_2 limit of 30 mmHg/4.0 kPa does not apply here

Treatment Not Recommended for use in the Management of Severe TBI (when only ICP is monitored)

- ▶ Mannitol by non-bolus continuous intravenous infusion
- ▶ Scheduled infusion of hyperosmolar therapy (e.g., every 4–6 h)
- ▶ Lumbar CSF drainage
- ▶ Furosemide
- ▶ Routine use of steroids
- ▶ High-dose propofol to attempt burst suppression
- ▶ Routinely decreasing PaCO₂ below 30 mmHg/4.0 kPa
- ▶ Routinely raising CPP above 90 mmHg

Effect of Sedation Therapy

Adequate sedation and pain management can help lower metabolic demand, maintain stable blood pressure, and ultimately aid in stabilizing intracranial pressure (ICP).

Main effect of sedation:

1. Reduction of ICP through effective sedation and pain management
 - ▶ Reduces sympathetic activation caused by pain and agitation, helping to avoid elevated blood pressure and increased cerebral blood flow (CBF).
 - ▶ Enhances patient-ventilator synchrony, which helps prevent ICP elevation due to hypoxia and hypercapnia.
2. Neuroprotection through decreased metabolism
 - ▶ Sedatives lower the cerebral metabolic rate of oxygen (CMRO₂), resulting in stabilized CBF.
 - ▶ This action helps to prevent brain edema and secondary brain injury.
3. Prevention of sudden ICP spikes
 - ▶ Reduces coughing reflexes and body movements, which helps prevent the Valsalva reflex (increased intrathoracic pressure leading to decreased venous return and elevated ICP).

Effect of Sedation

Sedatives	Main Effect	Impact on ICP	Considerations
Propofol	Metabolic suppression Anticonvulsant	Lower ICP (fast-acting)	Risk of hypotension Propofol infusion syndrome (PRIS)
Midazolam (BZDs)	Sedation Anxiolysis	Moderate ICP reduction	Accumulates easily Delayed awakening
Dexmedetomidine	Sedation Analgesia Sympatholytic effect	Mild ICP reduction	Risk of bradycardia Hypotension
Fentanyl (Opioid)	Strong analgesia	ICP reduction (initial transient increase)	Risk of hypotension Respiratory depression

Propofol in the first line choice due to its strong ICP-lowering effect, rapid onset & manageable awakening.
Midazolam may be used in combination for seizure prevention or post-surgical management.

Head Elevation and Neutral Position

- ▶ Advantages of head elevation
 - ICP lowering effect
 - Enhances venous return
 - Faciliates the flow of CSF into the spinal canal
- ▶ Disadvantages of head elevation
 - Decreases CPP due to reduced cerebral circulation

Osmotic Therapy: Mannitol vs Hypertonic Saline

Comparison	Mannitol	Hypertonic Saline
Mechanism	Osmotic effect Cerebral vasoconstriction	Strong osmotic effect Uneasy to cross BBB
ICP-lowering effect	Rapid onset	Longer duration
Effect on CPP	May transiently decrease	Tends to increase
Renal impact	Renal clearance-dependent Risk of renal failure	Not dependent on renal clearance
Side effects	Hypotension Renal dysfunction Rebound edema	Hypernatremia Metabolic acidosis
Clinical preference	Effective if BP is stable	Preferred in hypotensive or renal-impaired patients

Agent selection should be tailored to individual patient conditions.

Close monitoring of serum sodium and osmolarity is essential.

Guidelines for the Management of Severe Traumatic Brain Injury

4th Edition

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*Reviewed for evidence-based integrity and endorsed by the American Association of
Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.*

September 2016

Level of Recommendation

Recommendations in this edition are designated as Level I, Level II A, Level II B, or Level III. The Level of Recommendation is determined by the assessment of the quality of the body of evidence, rather than the class of the included studies.

- ▶ The levels were *primarily* based on the quality of the body of evidence as follows:
 - Level I recommendations were based on a high-quality body of evidence.
 - Level II A recommendations were based on a moderate-quality body of evidence.
 - Level II B and III recommendations were based on a low-quality body of evidence.

1. Decompressive Craniectomy

RECOMMENDATIONS*

Level I

- There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I recommendation for this topic.

Level II A

- Bifrontal DC is not recommended to improve outcomes as measured by the Glasgow Outcome Scale–Extended (GOS-E) score at 6 months post-injury in severe TBI patients with diffuse injury (without mass lesions), and with ICP elevation to values >20 mm Hg for more than 15 minutes within a 1-hour period that are refractory to first-tier therapies. However, this procedure has been demonstrated to reduce ICP and to minimize days in the intensive care unit (ICU).
- A large frontotemporoparietal DC (not less than 12 x 15 cm or 15 cm diameter) is recommended over a small frontotemporoparietal DC for reduced mortality and improved neurologic outcomes in patients with severe TBI.

2. Prophylactic Hypothermia

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II A

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II A recommendation for this topic.

Level II B

- ▶ Early (within 2.5 hours), short-term (48 hours post-injury) prophylactic hypothermia is not recommended to improve outcomes in patients with diffuse injury.

3. Hyperosmolar Therapy

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I, II, and III

- ▶ Although hyperosmolar therapy may lower intracranial pressure, there was insufficient evidence about effects on clinical outcomes to support a specific recommendation, or to support use of any specific hyperosmolar agent, for patients with severe traumatic brain injury.

4. Cerebrospinal Fluid Drainage

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II recommendation for this topic.

Level III

- ▶ An EVD system zeroed at the midbrain with continuous drainage of CSF may be considered to lower ICP burden more effectively than intermittent use.
- ▶ Use of CSF drainage to lower ICP in patients with an initial Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) <6 during the first 12 hours after injury may be considered.

5. Ventilation Therapies

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II A

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II A recommendation for this topic.

Level II B

- ▶ Prolonged prophylactic hyperventilation with partial pressure of carbon dioxide in arterial blood (PaCO₂) of 25 mm Hg or less is not recommended.

6. Anesthetics, Analgesics, and Sedatives

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II A

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or Level IIA recommendation for this topic.

Level II B

- ▶ Administration of barbiturates to induce burst suppression measured by EEG as prophylaxis against the development of intracranial hypertension is not recommended.
- ▶ High-dose barbiturate administration is recommended to control elevated ICP refractory to maximum standard medical and surgical treatment. Hemodynamic stability is essential before and during barbiturate therapy.
- ▶ Although propofol is recommended for the control of ICP, it is not recommended for improvement in mortality or 6-month outcomes. Caution is required as high-dose propofol can produce significant morbidity.

7. Steroids

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I

- ▶ The use of steroids is not recommended for improving outcome or reducing ICP. In patients with severe TBI, high-dose methylprednisolone was associated with increased mortality and is contraindicated.

8. Nutrition

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I recommendation for this topic.⁸⁵

Level II A

- ▶ Feeding patients to attain basal caloric replacement at least by the fifth day and, at most, by the seventh day post-injury is recommended to decrease mortality.

Level II B

- ▶ Transgastric jejunal feeding is recommended to reduce the incidence of ventilator-associated pneumonia.

9. Infection Prophylaxis

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I recommendation for this topic.

Level II A

- ▶ Early tracheostomy is recommended to reduce mechanical ventilation days when the overall benefit is felt to outweigh the complications associated with such a procedure. However, there is no evidence that early tracheostomy reduces mortality or the rate of nosocomial pneumonia.
- ▶ The use of povidone-iodine (PI) oral care is not recommended to reduce ventilator-associated pneumonia and may cause an increased risk of acute respiratory distress syndrome.

Level III

- ▶ Antimicrobial-impregnated catheters may be considered to prevent catheter-related infections during EVD.

10. Deep Vein Thrombosis Prophylaxis

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II recommendation for treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in severe TBI patients.

Level III

- ▶ Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) or low-dose unfractionated heparin may be used in combination with mechanical prophylaxis. However, there is an increased risk for expansion of intracranial hemorrhage.

11. Seizure Prophylaxis

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I recommendation for this topic.

Level II A

- ▶ Prophylactic use of phenytoin or valproate is not recommended for preventing late PTS.
- ▶ Phenytoin is recommended to decrease the incidence of early PTS (within 7 days of injury), when the overall benefit is felt to outweigh the complications associated with such treatment. However, early PTS have not been associated with worse outcomes.

At the present time there is insufficient evidence to recommend levetiracetam over phenytoin regarding efficacy in preventing early post-traumatic seizures and toxicity.

12. Intracranial Pressure Monitoring

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II A

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II A recommendation for this topic.

Level II B

- ▶ Management of severe TBI patients using information from ICP monitoring is recommended to reduce in-hospital and 2-week post-injury mortality.

13. Cerebral Perfusion Pressure Monitoring

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I recommendation for this topic.

Level II B

- ▶ Management of severe TBI patients using guidelines-based recommendations for CPP monitoring is recommended to decrease 2-week mortality.

14. Advanced Cerebral Monitoring

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II recommendation for this topic. (Although patients with desaturations identified with advanced cerebral monitoring have poorer outcomes, Level II evidence showed no improvement in outcomes for monitored patients.)

Level III

- ▶ Jugular bulb monitoring of arteriovenous oxygen content difference (AVDO₂), as a source of information for management decisions, may be considered to reduce mortality and improve outcomes at 3 and 6 months post-injury.

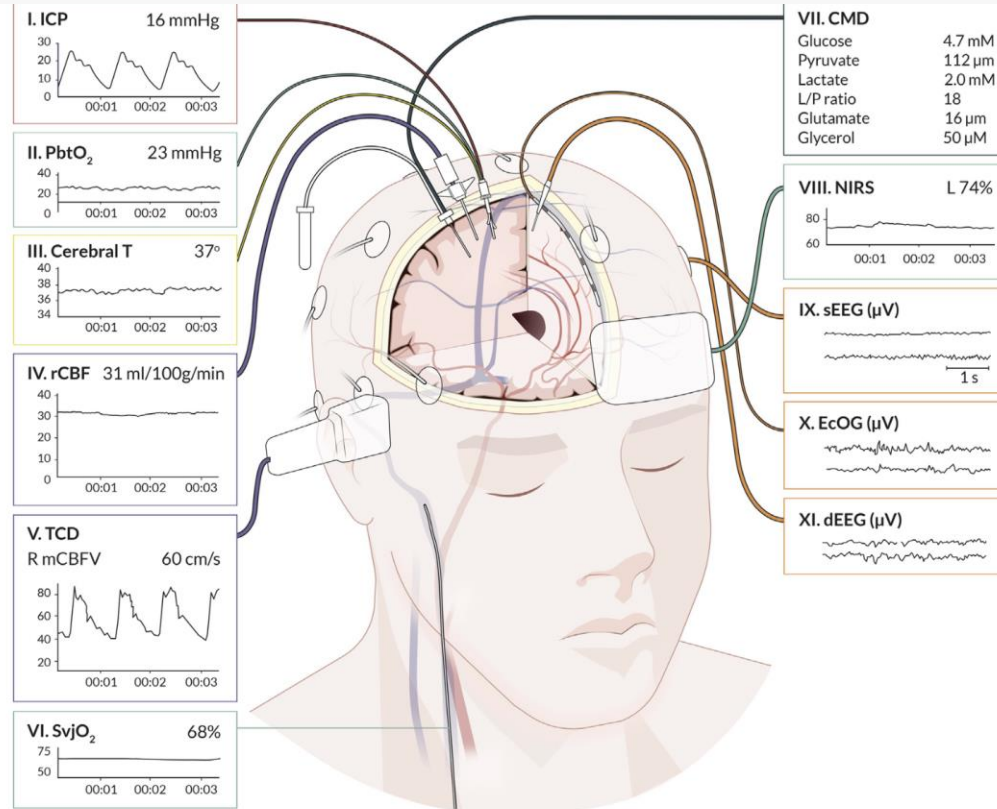
Cerebral Multimodality Monitoring

Cerebral multimodality monitoring in adult neurocritical care patients with acute brain injury: A narrative review

Front. Physiol., 01 December 2022

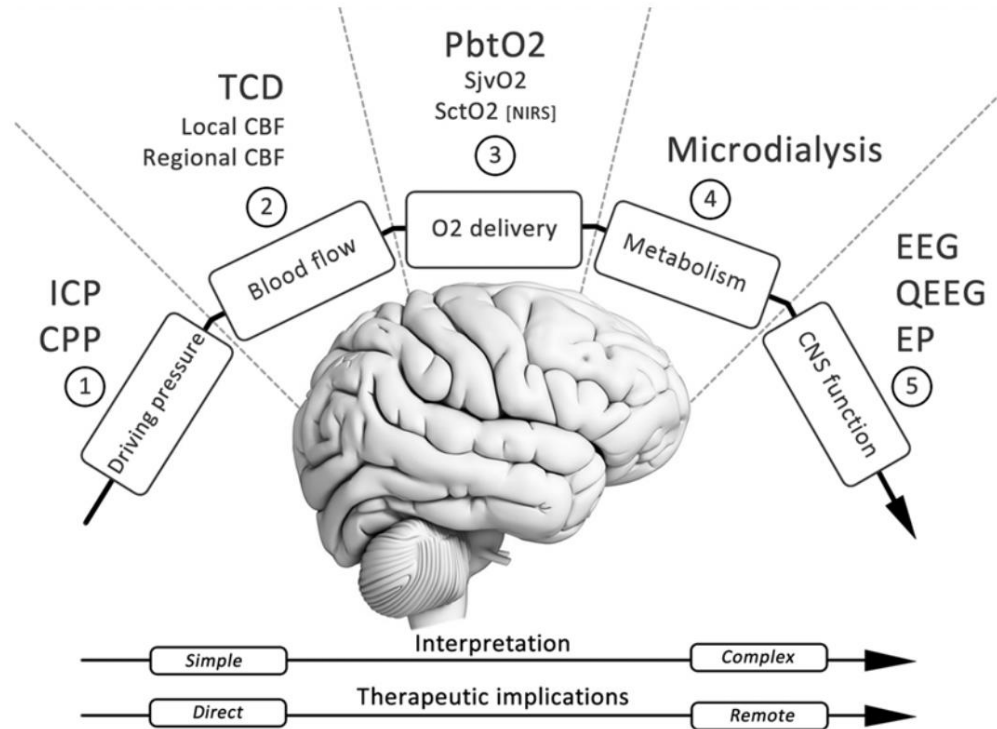
Sec. Computational Physiology and Medicine

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Cerebral T, cerebral temperature; CMD, cerebral microdialysis; dEEG, depth electroencephalography; ECoG, electrocorticography; ICP, intracranial pressure; NIRS, near-infrared spectroscopy; PbtO₂, partial pressure of brain tissue oxygenation; rCBF, regional cerebral blood flow; sEEG, surface electroencephalography; SvjO₂, jugular bulb venous oximetry; TCD, transcranial Doppler. Professional illustration by Anna Sieben (Sieben Medical Art).

Multimodality Monitoring in Neurocritical Care



Goal-directed variable target	
ICP	Less than 20 mmHg
CPP	Greater than 50–60 mmHg
PbtO ₂	Greater than 10–15 mmHg
JvO ₂	Greater than 50%
EEG	Avoid electrographic, non-convulsive seizures
BrGluc	Greater than 0.7 mol/L
BrLac	Less than 2.9 mmol/L
BrPyr	Greater than 166 μmol/L
LPR	Less than 40

(heustein Peripheral Brain pbrainmd.wordpress.com. December 13, 2015)

Multimodality Monitoring in Neurocritical Care

1. The driving pressure method relies on continuous monitoring of ICP and CPP.
2. For CBF assessment, TCD is the standard technique, although local and regional CBF should also be considered.
3. PbtO₂ has gradually replaced the traditional S_{ijv}O₂ for monitoring O₂ delivery, while cerebral oximetry remains an indicator of O₂ diffusion rather than a direct metabolic metric.
4. Metabolism is primarily assessed through microdialysis, where increased glutamate, a high lactate/pyruvate ratio, and low glucose levels indicate CNS cellular hypoxia.
5. Electrophysiology is uniquely capable of providing insights into CNS function and neuronal activity.

(heustein Peripheral Brain pbrainmd.wordpress.com. December 13, 2015)

15. Blood Pressure Thresholds

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II recommendation for this topic.

Level III

- ▶ Maintaining SBP at ≥ 100 mm Hg for patients 50 to 69 years old or at ≥ 110 mm Hg or above for patients 15 to 49 or over 70 years old may be considered to decrease mortality and improve outcomes.

16. Intracranial Pressure Thresholds

RECOMMENDATIONS*

Level I and II A

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II A recommendation for this topic.

Level II B

- ▶ Treating ICP above 22 mm Hg is recommended because values above this level are associated with increased mortality.

Level III

- ▶ A combination of ICP values and clinical and brain CT findings may be used to make management decisions.

17. Cerebral Perfusion Pressure Thresholds

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II A

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support a Level I or II A recommendation for this topic.
- ▶ ***Level II B***
- ▶ The recommended target cerebral perfusion pressure (CPP) value for survival and favorable outcomes is between 60 and 70 mm Hg. Whether 60 or 70 mm Hg is the minimum optimal CPP threshold is unclear and may depend upon the patient's autoregulatory status.
- ▶ ***Level III***
- ▶ Avoiding aggressive attempts to maintain CPP above 70 mm Hg with fluids and pressors may be considered because of the risk of adult respiratory failure.

18. Advanced Cerebral Monitoring Thresholds

RECOMMENDATIONS

Level I and II

- ▶ There was insufficient evidence to support Level I or II recommendation for this topic.

Level III

- ▶ Jugular venous saturation of <50% may be a threshold to avoid in order to reduce mortality and improve outcomes.

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Lavinio et al. *Critical Care* (2024) 28:170
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13054-024-04951-x>

Critical Care

Lavinio et al. *Critical Care* (2024) 28:170

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GUIDELINE

Open Access



Targeted temperature control following traumatic brain injury: ESICM/NACCS best practice consensus recommendations

Andrea Lavinio^{1,2*}, Jonathan P. Coles^{1,2}, Chiara Robba³, Marcel Aries^{4,5}, Pierre Bouzat⁶, Dara Chean⁷, Shirin Frisvold^{8,9}, Laura Galarza¹⁰, Raimund Helbok^{11,12}, Jeroen Hermanides¹³, Mathieu van der Jagt¹⁴, David K. Menon^{1,2}, Geert Meyfroidt¹⁵, Jean-Francois Payen⁶, Daniele Poole¹⁶, Frank Rasulo¹⁷, Jonathan Rhodes¹⁸, Emily Sidlow¹⁹, Luzius A. Steiner²⁰, Fabio Silvio Taccone^{21,22} and Riikka Takala^{23,24}

Tier Zero (not ICP dependent): Treat core temperature >38.0°C

- Sedation, endotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation
- CPP >60 mmHg
- SpO₂ >94% and Hb >7g/dL
- Consider EEG monitoring and seizure prophylaxis, avoid hyponatraemia

Tier 1: Controlled normothermia (target core temperature 36.0–37.5°C)

- Titrate sedation and analgesia to control ICP
- CPP 60–70 mmHg
- PaCO₂ 35–38 mmHg / 4.7–5.1 kPa
- Consider osmotherapy and external ventricular drainage

Tier 2: Controlled normothermia (target core temperature 36.0–37.5°C)

- CPP individualised goals
- PaCO₂ 32–35 mmHg / 4.3–4.6 kPa
- Consider neuromuscular blocker

Tier 3: Mild hypothermia (target core temperature 35.0–36.0°C)

- Consider decompressive craniectomy
- Consider barbiturate coma

Fig. 2 Intracranial pressure management algorithm for severe TBI edited from SIBICC 2019 [28]. * Including TTC in tiers 1 and 2 is the suggested addition from the TTC-TBI group to the original SIBICC tiers (green bars). *When possible, the lowest tier should be used. It is not necessary to use all modalities in a previous tier before moving to the next tier. Consider repeat CT and surgical options for space occupying lesions. CPP cerebral perfusion pressure, CT computed tomography, EEG electroencephalography, Hb haemoglobin, kPa kilopascal, mmHg millimetre of mercury, PaCO₂ arterial partial pressure of carbon dioxide, SpO₂ arterial oxygen saturation

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Clinical term	Definition
Mild hypothermia	Core temperature 34.0–36.0 °C
Therapeutic hypothermia	Core temperature < 36.0 °C
Controlled normothermia	Core temperature 36.0–37.5 °C
Fever	Core temperature > 37.5 °C

Lavinio *et al. Critical Care* (2024) 28:170

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Recommendation	Level of consensus	Stage reached
<i>Pathophysiology</i>		
Temperature measurement and control is an essential aspect of high-quality care in patients with severe traumatic brain injury (TBI)	Strong consensus (100%)	Round 3
In patients with impending cerebral herniation, temperature control is essential	Strong consensus (89%)	Round 3
<i>Monitoring</i>		
Continuous temperature monitoring is preferable over intermittent temperature measurements in patients with severe TBI	Strong consensus (100%)	Round 1
Monitoring core temperature (e.g., bladder, oesophageal, brain) is strongly recommended over measuring or monitoring superficial temperature (e.g., skin, tympanic) in severe TBI	Strong consensus (94%)	Round 3
Monitoring brain temperature is recommended in addition to monitoring core systemic temperature as a therapeutic target	No consensus (61%)	
When brain temperature monitoring is not immediately available, alternative sources of core temperature (oesophageal, bladder, intravascular) are acceptable	Strong consensus (89%)	Round 3
When brain temperature monitoring is in place, it is advisable to also assess core temperature	Strong consensus (100%)	Round 3

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Pathophysiology

1. Temperature measurement and control is an essential aspect of high-quality care in patients with severe TBI.
2. In patients with impending cerebral herniation, temperature control is essential.

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Monitoring

1. Continuous temperature monitoring is preferable over intermittent temperature measurements in patients with severe TBI.
2. Monitoring core temperature (e.g., bladder, oesophageal, brain) is strongly recommended over measuring or monitoring superficial temperature (e.g., skin, tympanic) in severe TBI.
3. When brain temperature monitoring is in place, it is advisable to assess an additional source of core temperature monitoring (i.e. oesophageal, bladder).

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

ICP

Temperature control is a key component of intracranial pressure (ICP) management in severe TBI cases	Strong consensus (100%)	Round 1
Controlled normothermia (i.e., target core temperature 36.0–37.5 °C) should be included as an addition to the Tier 1 and Tier 2 treatments defined within the SIBICC 2019 guidelines	Moderate consensus (83%)	Round 3
Therapeutic hypothermia (i.e., target core temperature $\leq$ 36.0 °C) should be considered in cases where tier 1 and 2 treatments (as per SIBICC guidance) have failed to control ICP	Moderate consensus (83%)	Round 3
If hypothermia is considered to control ICP, target temperature should be managed as close to physiological temperature as possible	Strong consensus (94%)	Round 3
In patients with impending brain herniation, therapeutic hypothermia should be considered as a temporising strategy, and should be induced rapidly	No consensus (61%)	
In patients with impending herniation awaiting surgical evacuation or decompression, the lowest target core temperature at which hypothermia should be initiated as a short-term temporising strategy is	No consensus ^a (61%—35.0 °C; 17%—34.0 °C; 6%—33.0 °C; 17%—N/A)	Round 3
In patients with exhausted intracranial volume buffering reserve and labile ICP with occasional spikes > 25 mmHg, the lowest target core temperature that a medium term ICP-control strategy should be implemented at is	No consensus ^a (56%—35.0 °C; 33%—34.0 °C; 6%—33.0 °C; 6%—N/A)	Round 3
In tier 3 treatment in SIBICC guidelines, before considering decompressive craniectomy, hypothermia (< 36.0 °C) should be attempted	No consensus (44%)	
Before considering barbiturate burst suppression, hypothermia (< 36.0 °C) should be attempted	No consensus (61%)	

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

ICP Management

1. Temperature control is a key component of ICP management in severe TBI.
2. Controlled normothermia (i.e., target core temperature 36.0–37.5 °C) should be included as an addition to the Tier 1 and Tier 2 treatments defined within the Seattle International Severe Traumatic Brain Injury Consensus Conference (SIBICC) 2019 guidelines.
3. Therapeutic hypothermia (i.e., target core temperature ≤ 36.0 °C) should be considered in cases where tier 1 and 2 treatments (as per SIBICC guidance) have failed to control ICP.
4. If hypothermia is considered to control ICP, target temperature should be managed as close to physiological temperature (normothermia) as possible.

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Fever

Uncontrolled fever (neurogenic or secondary to inflammation or infection) can precipitate secondary brain injury in patients with severe TBI	Strong consensus (100%)	Round 3
Fever control is recommended in patients with severe TBI who have seizures or are perceived to be at high risk of seizures	Strong consensus (94%)	Round 3
Fever increases the risk of intracranial hypertension in patients with severe TBI	Strong consensus (94%)	Round 3
Neurogenic fever (core temperature > 37.5 °C driven by neurological dysregulation in the absence of sepsis or clinically significant inflammatory process) is relatively common in traumatic brain injury cases, and it should be promptly detected and treated (i.e., with controlled normothermia targeting 36.0–37.5 °C), irrespective of ICP	Moderate consensus (83%)	Round 3
Controlled normothermia should be considered when pyrexia is secondary to sepsis or inflammatory processes, and when the patient is perceived to be at risk of secondary brain injury, especially in the acute phase of TBI	Strong consensus (94%)	Round 3
In patients with severe TBI who are sedated and ventilated, controlled normothermia, irrespective of ICP, should be initiated reactively when fever is detected	Strong consensus (94%)	Round 3
When neurogenic fever is detected in TBI cases, controlled normothermia should be continued for as long as the brain remains at risk of secondary brain damage	Strong consensus (89%)	Round 3

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Fever Control

1. Uncontrolled fever (neurogenic or secondary to inflammation or infection) can precipitate secondary brain injury in patients with severe TBI.
2. Fever control is recommended in patients with severe TBI who have seizures or are perceived to be at high risk of seizures.
3. Fever increases the risk of intracranial hypertension in patients with severe TBI.
4. Neurogenic fever (core temperature > 37.5 °C) driven by neurological dysregulation in the absence of sepsis or a clinically significant systemic inflammatory process is relatively common in TBI, and it should be promptly detected and treated (i.e., with controlled normothermia targeting 36.0 °C to 37.5 °C), irrespective of ICP level.
5. Controlled normothermia should be considered when pyrexia is secondary to sepsis or inflammatory processes, and when the patient is perceived to be at risk of secondary brain injury, especially in the acute phase of TBI.

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Hypothermic TTC induction

It is recommended that the rapid induction of hypothermia in TBI cases should be achieved with automated feedback-controlled temperature management devices

Strong consensus (89%) Round 3

It is advisable that neurotrauma ICUs should stock readily available NaCl solutions of different concentrations stored at ice-cold temperature for the management of intracranial hypertension crises

No consensus (50%)

TTC maintenance

An automated feedback-controlled TTC device that enables precise temperature control is desirable for the initiation of TTC and maintenance at target temperature in patients with severe TBI

Strong consensus (100%) Round 1

The maximum temperature variation that a patient should experience during normothermia is less than or equal to ± 0.5 °C per hour and ≤ 1 °C per 24-h period

Moderate consensus (78%) Round 3

When hypothermia is indicated, treatment should be continued for as long as the brain is considered to be at risk of secondary brain injury

Strong consensus (89%) Round 3

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Hypothermic TTC induction

- ▶ It is recommended that the rapid induction of hypothermia in TBI should be achieved with automated feedback-controlled temperature management devices.

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

TTC maintenance

1. An automated feedback-controlled TTC device that enables precise temperature control is desirable for the initiation of TTC and maintenance at target temperature in patients with severe TBI.
2. The maximum temperature variation that a patient should experience during normothermia is less than or equal to $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ per hour and $\leq 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ per 24-h period
3. When hypothermia is indicated, treatment should be continued for as long as the brain is considered to be at risk of secondary brain injury.

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Rewarming following hypothermic TTC

Obtaining an interval scan and/or an alternative assessment of intracranial compliance, in addition to the absolute number of ICP, is recommended before rewarming

Strong consensus (89%) Round 3

When rewarming a patient from therapeutic hypothermia, rewarming should be controlled by an automated feedback-controlled TTC device and should not exceed 1.0 °C per 24-h period

No consensus (44%)

Rebound hyperthermia should be prevented whenever possible or promptly treated in cases when the brain is perceived to be at risk of secondary brain injury

Strong consensus (100%) Round 3

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Rewarming

1. Obtaining an interval scan and/or an alternative assessment of intracranial compliance, in addition to the absolute number of ICP, is recommended before rewarming.
2. Rebound hyperthermia should be prevented whenever possible or promptly treated in cases when the brain is perceived to be at risk of secondary brain injury.

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Shivering

It is important to assess, document and manage shivering in severe TBI patients	Strong consensus (100%)	Round 3
Whenever ICP is labile and shivering is detected, neuromuscular blockers should be considered after ensuring appropriate depth of sedation	Strong consensus (94%)	Round 3
In self-ventilating patients in the subacute phase of severe TBI, an individualised risk–benefit assessment should be undertaken regarding the indications of controlled normothermia	Strong consensus (100%)	Round 3
Permissive hyperthermia should be considered in cases where risk of secondary brain injury resulting from pyrexia is thought to be low, and when shivering cannot be controlled with first line treatments such as NSAIDs, opiates, magnesium or counter warming	Moderate consensus (83%)	Round 3

Auditing

Time within target range, burden of fever and similar metrics can be considered as indicators of quality of temperature management	Strong consensus (94%)	Round 3
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Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Shivering

1. It is important to assess, document and manage shivering in severe TBI patients.
2. Whenever ICP is labile and shivering is detected, neuromuscular blockers should be considered after ensuring appropriate depth of sedation.
3. In self-ventilating patients in the subacute phase of severe TBI, an individualised risk–benefit assessment should be undertaken regarding the strict indications of controlled normothermia.
4. Permissive hyperthermia should be considered in cases where risk of secondary brain injury resulting from pyrexia is thought to be low, and when shivering cannot be controlled with first line treatments such as NSAIDs, opiates, magnesium or counter warming.

Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Auditing

- ▶ **‘Time within target range’, ‘burden of fever’ and similar metrics can be considered as indicators of quality of temperature management.**

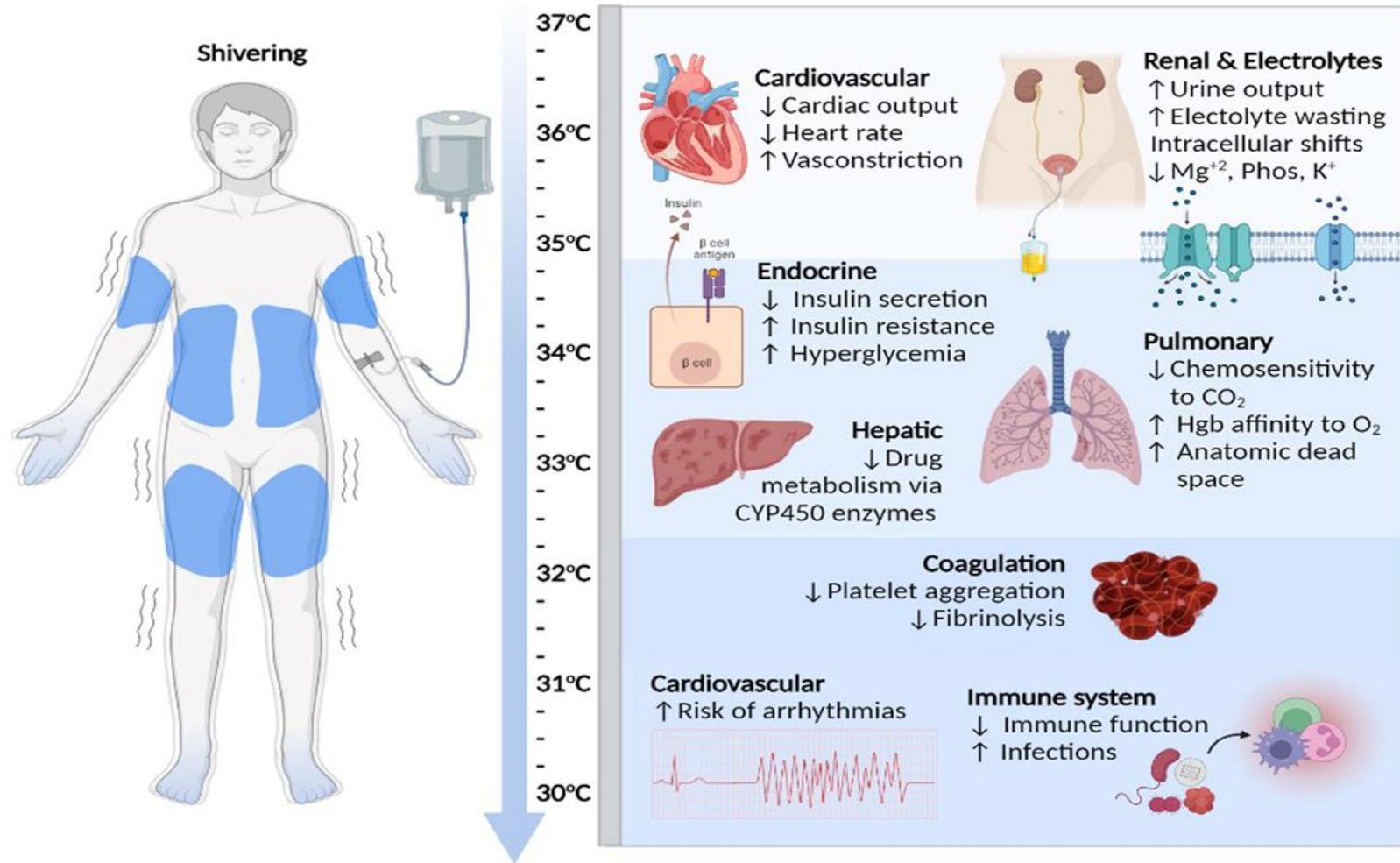
Targeted Temperature Management for TBI

Overview of Recommendations

- ▶ Managing temperature is a vital aspect of care for TBI .
- ▶ It is crucial to control fever to prevent secondary brain injury and should be actively managed.
- ▶ The recommended target for controlled normothermia is 36.0 - 37.5 °C (Tier 1 & 2 treatment).
- Therapeutic hypothermia should only be considered with caution and as a last option.

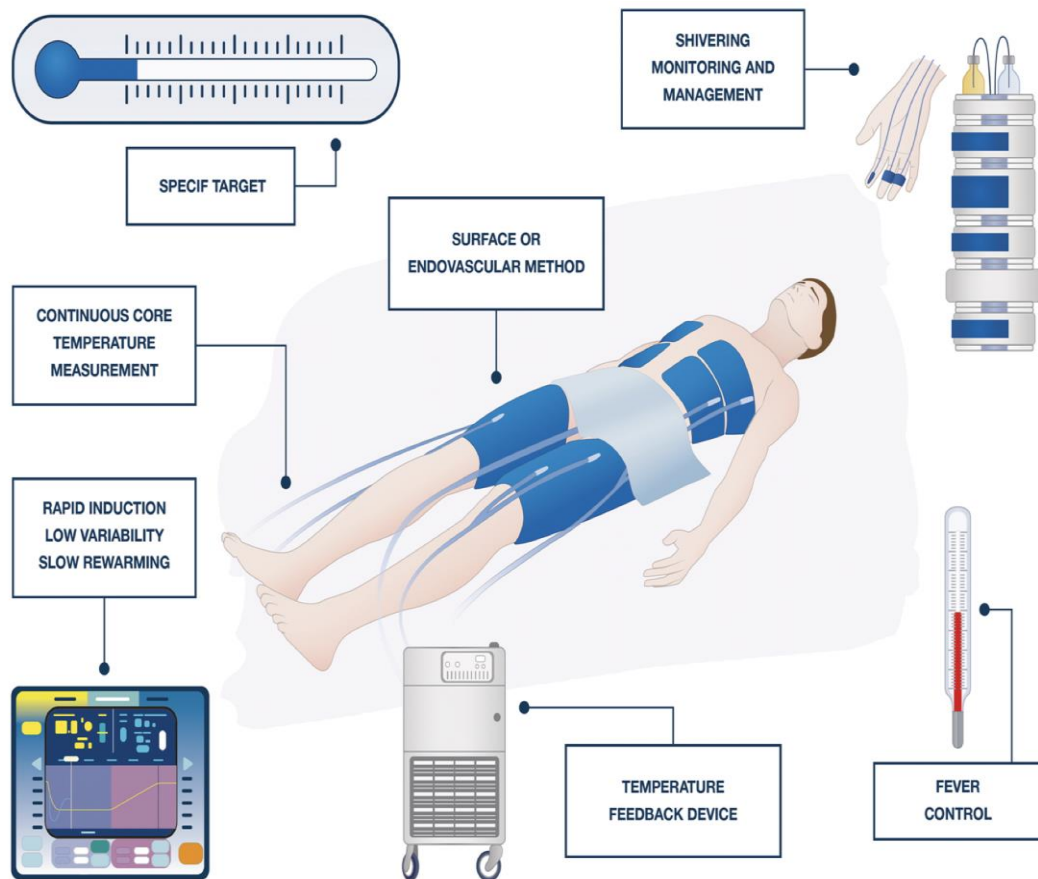
Complications of temperature control

Hernandez et al. Adv Ther (2023) 40:2097–2115



High Quality TTM

Taccone et al. Critical Care 2020 Jan 6;24:6.



- ▶ Rapid induction: initiate as soon as possible
- ▶ Specific target temperature: 33 °C or 36 °C
- ▶ Continuous core temperature measurement: bladder, esophagus, or a vessel
- ▶ Duration of the cooling phase: last at least 24 h.
- ▶ Slow rewarming: (0.15–0.25 °C/h)
- ▶ Low variability
- ▶ Temperature feedback system
- ▶ Fever control
- ▶ Shivering management

難治型顱內高壓之低溫療法：健保支付標準

	<u>難治型顱內高壓之低溫療法</u>					
<u>47081B</u>	<u>— 首日</u>		<u>v</u>	<u>v</u>	<u>v</u>	<u>6057</u>
<u>47082B</u>	<u>— 第二至七日(每日)</u>		<u>v</u>	<u>v</u>	<u>v</u>	<u>2505</u>
	<u>註：</u>					
	<u>1.適應症：因下列原因造成之顱內高</u>					
	<u>壓，以傳統治療方式如：頭部抬高 30</u>					
	<u>度、降腦壓藥物、開顱手術、深度鎮</u>					
	<u>靜且 ICP 仍處於 20mmHg>10 min</u>					
	<u>者，皆無法使顱內壓降低：</u>					
	<u>(1)出血性中風。</u>					
	<u>(2)次重度或重度腦創傷 GCS 小於等</u>					
	<u>於 12。</u>					

難治型顱內高壓之低溫療法：健保支付標準

2. 禁忌症：

- (1)任意原因引起之休克。
- (2)在意外前即有失智或長期意識障礙。
- (3)腦死。
- (4)自發性低體溫者 $<32^{\circ}\text{C}$ 。
- (5)顱內有占據顱內空間病灶如血塊、腦水腫、水腦症等，符合手術適應症，但未進行手術者。
- (6)嚴重感染者。
- (7)呼吸窘迫症候群。

難治型顱內高壓之低溫療法：健保支付標準

3. 支付規範:

- (1)限 ICU 執行。
 - (2)同次住院，限申報「首日」一次，「第二至七日(每日)」至多六次。
 - (3)申報時需檢附生命徵象及藥物使用紀錄。
 - (4)不得同時申報:47037B、**47038B**、**47039B**、**47094B**~47096B 及 47097B~47100B。
- ### 4. 限神經科、神經外科、兒科專科醫師執行。

Shivering

Stroke

Volume 39, Issue 12, 1 December 2008; Pages 3242-3247

<https://doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.108.523654>



ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Metabolic Impact of Shivering During Therapeutic Temperature Modulation

The Bedside Shivering Assessment Scale

Neeraj Badjatia, MD, MSc, Evangelia Strongilis, RD, Errol Gordon, MD, Mary Prescutti, RN, Luis Fernandez, MD, Andres Fernandez, MD, Manuel Buitrago, MD, PhD, J. Michael Schmidt, PhD, Noeleen D. Ostapkovich, MSc, and Stephan A. Mayer, MD, FCCM

Shivering

Bedside Shivering Assessment Scale (BSAS)

Score	Definition
0	None: no shivering noted on palpation of the masseter, neck, or chest wall
1	Mild: shivering localized to the neck and/or thorax only
2	Moderate: shivering involves gross movement of the upper extremities (in addition to neck and thorax)
3	Severe: shivering involves gross movements of the trunk and upper and lower extremities

Shivering

Review Article

J Neurocrit Care 2020; 13(1): 1-18.

Published online: May 27, 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18700/jnc.200001>

Targeted temperature management for postcardiac arrest syndrome

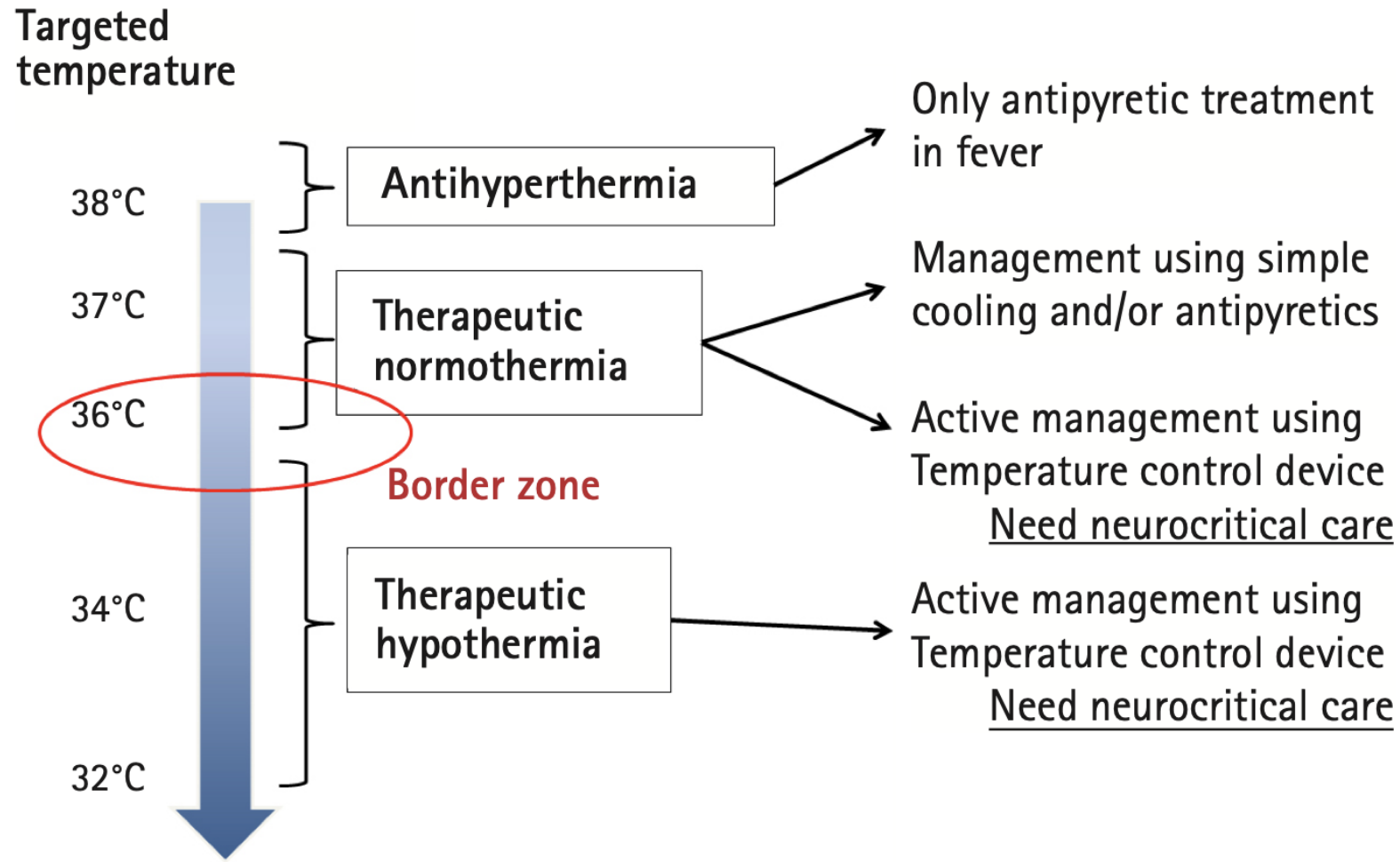
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Shivering

Definition of TTM



Shivering

TEMPERATURE SELECTION: CONSIDERING 36°C

- Therapeutic hypothermia (TTM 32°C to 34°C) is more effective in preventing secondary brain injury than TTM 36°C, but it may lead to coagulopathy and increased bleeding.
- In cases of surgical bleeding, intracranial hemorrhage, hemorrhagic diathesis, or trauma, TTM 36°C is advisable, as it typically does not induce coagulopathy.
- Regarding circulatory management, TTM 32°C to 34°C can cause greater hemodynamic instability compared to TTM 36°C, potentially necessitating vasopressor support.

Shivering

Complications and Warning Signs

- Shivering acts as a physiological homeostatic response to help regulate body temperature, typically beginning at around 36°C.
- ▶ At TTM of 36°C, shivering is severe due to the patient's thermoregulatory mechanisms being somewhat diminished at temperatures between 32°C and 33°C.
- ▶ Prolonged shivering leads to an elevated metabolic rate and cardiac output, resulting in tachycardia, increased blood pressure, increased lethal cardiac complications, greater CO₂ production, wound pain, elevated CMRO₂ and ICP, and increased stress response.
- ▶ Warning signs of shivering include goosebumps, palpation of the masseter muscle, artifacts in electrocardiograms, difficulty in cooling, and a rise in temperature despite TTM .

Shivering Control

To suppress shivering effectively, a combination of techniques should be employed, and it is important to control shivering with determination.

Remifentanyl 6-60 $\mu\text{g/kg/hr}$
or fentanyl 0.7-1.0 $\mu\text{g/kg/hr}$
and if necessary add
dexmedetomidine 0.2-0.7 $\mu\text{g/kg/hr}$
meperidine 0.5 mg/kg every 6 hr

Propofol 0.5-3.0 mg/kg/hr
or midazolam 0.03-0.2 mg/kg/hr

