



10 Things You Must Know When Treating ED ICH Patients

Learning Objectives

- Review the guidelines that direct emergent intracerebral hemorrhage patient management.
- Discuss optimal strategies for the diagnosis and treatment of ED intracerebral hemorrhage patients.
- Describe how the emergent airway, elevated blood pressure, and increased ICP be treated in ICH patients.
- Consider ongoing research and new therapies that might impact clinical practice in the area of emergent ICH patient management.

Background

Each year hundreds of thousands of patients will present for emergent care because of cerebrovascular accidents related to intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH). The role of the emergency physician in treating these critically ill patients include airway and vital sign stabilization, prompt diagnosis and efficient management of the hemorrhage, its cause, and the associated complications. Important among these are rapid sequence intubation, management of elevated blood pressure and raised intracranial pressure, and seizure management.

This lecture will include a review of how ICH patients can be quickly diagnosed and treated in the ED, as well as how surgical consultation and intervention can be provided. It will also include a discussion of how systems of care, such as stroke center designation, might improve the delivery of care to these critically ill ICH patients. Lastly, the new therapeutic horizons that are being studied in the area of ICH patient management will be outlined, including ICH patient management in the special setting of anticoagulation with an elevated INR.

Key Clinical Questions

- What are the guidelines and optimal strategies that direct emergent intracerebral hemorrhage patient management, including the need for operative intervention?
- How should the emergent airway, elevated blood pressure, and increased ICP be treated in ICH patients?
- What systems of acute care can facilitate the management of critically ill ICH patients?
- What ongoing research and new therapies might impact clinical practice in the area of emergent ICH patient management?
- How can ICH patient management be optimized in the setting of anticoagulation and an elevated INR?