



**Pearls**

- Maintain SpO2 >95% and EtCO2 30-35mm Hg. Avoid allowing EtCO2 to fall below 30 mmHg.
- Minimize external stimuli and maintain normothermia.
- Hyperventilate patient to a respiratory rate of NO MORE than 20 breaths/minute if signs & symptoms of brainstem herniation are present.
- Hyperventilation should be avoided in the first 24 hours of a severe brain injury.
- Hypertonic saline, if initiated at the sending facility, should be limited to 1.5-3.0 mL/kg with a target serum sodium of 155 mEq/L.
- This should be infused through a central line.
- Keep patients head elevated if possible to reduce ICP.