

HYPERTENSIVE EMERGENCIES

I. DEFINITION:

Hypertensive emergencies exist only when elevated BP (diastolic of > 130) coexists with any of the following: angina, pulmonary edema, pregnancy or CNS abnormalities such as headache, blurred vision, altered mental status, or focal neurological signs.

II. TREATMENT:

- A. ABC's
- B. Sit patient up or elevate head if awake. Place patient on side if comatose, severely altered mental or decreased gag reflex.
- C. Oxygen, 15 liters/minute via non-rebreathing mask.
- D. Reassure/calm patient.