

Table 3. Treatment of severe hypertension (Modified by SOGC Clinical Practice Guideline 2014)¹⁴⁸

Anti-hypertensive agent	Dosage	Onset	Duration	Comments
Labetalol	20 mg IV, repeat 20 to 80 mg IV q 30 min, or 1 to 2 mg/min, max 300 mg (then switch to oral)	5 min	4 h	Contra indications: asthma, cardiac failure
Nifedipine	5 to 10 mg capsule to be swallowed or bitten, every 30 min	5-10 min	6 h	
Hydralazine	5 mg IV, repeat 5 to 10 mg IV every 30 min, or 0.5 to 10 mg/hr IV, to a maximum of 20 mg IV (or 30 mg IM)	5 min		Increased risk of maternal hypotension