## Table 4. Dosage and Adverse Effects of Commonly Used Parenteral Antihypertensive Medications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>Adverse Effects</th>
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</table>
| Enalaprilat | • 1.25 mg over 5 min every 4-6 h  
• Titrate by 1.25 mg increments at 12- to 24-h intervals; max 5 mg every 6 h | Variable response, potential hypotension in high renin states, headache, dizziness                          |
| Esmolol  | • 500 µg/kg loading dose over 1 min  
• Infusion at 25-50 µg/kg/min, increased by 25 µg/kg/min every 10-20 min; max 300 µg/kg/min | Nausea, flushing, first-degree heart block, infusion-site pain                                             |
| Fenoldopam | • 0.1 µg/kg/min initial dose  
• 0.05-0.1 µg/kg/min increments; max 1.6 µg/kg/min | Nausea, headache, flushing                                                                                 |
| Labetalol | • 20-mg initial bolus  
• 20- to 80-mg repeat boluses or start infusion at 2 mg/min; max 24-h dose 300 mg | Hypotension, dizziness, nausea/vomiting, paresthesias, scalp tingling, bronchospasm                        |
| Nicardipine | • 5 mg/h  
• Increase at 2.5 mg/h increments every 5 min; max 15 mg/h | Headache, dizziness, flushing, nausea, edema, tachycardia                                                |
| Nitroglycerin | • 5 µg/min  
• Titrate by 5 µg/min every 5-10 min; max 60 µg/min | Headache, dizziness, tachyphylaxis                                                                      |
| Nitroprusside | • 0.5 µg/kg/min  
• Increase to a max of 2 µg/kg/min to avoid toxicity | Thiocyanate and cyanide toxicity, headache, nausea/vomiting, muscle spasm, flushing                      |
| Phentolamine | • 1- to 5-mg boluses  
• 15-mg max dose | Flushing, tachycardia, dizziness, nausea/vomiting                                                         |