STAGE 1
Admission to the ICU
Ventilation PaO2 ≥11kpa
PaCO2 4.5-5.0kpa
Sedation
Analgesia ±paralysis
30° head of bed elevation
Intravenous fluids ±
inotropes to maintain mean
arterial pressure ≥80mmHg
Ventriculostomy±
cerebrospinal fluid drainage
Surgical removal of space
occupying lesions
± prophylactic
anticonvulsants

STAGE 2
Mannitol (maintain serum
osmolarity <315 mOsm/kg)
Hypertonic saline (avoid in
hyponatraemic patients,
caution in patients with
cardiac or pulmonary
problems)
Inotropes to maintain CPP
≥60mmHg
Monitor blood magnesium
levels and replace as
required
Barbiturates not
permitted
± therapeutic hypothermia

STAGE 3
Barbiturate therapy
Decompressive
cranieotomy