**Pearls**

- Hypertension is defined as a patient with a systolic blood pressure > 130 or a diastolic blood pressure > 80.
- This primary impression should be reserved only for asymptomatic patients complaining of high blood pressure, regardless of actual blood pressure.

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**History**
- Age
- Past medical history
- Drug allergies and medications
- Tobacco use
- Use of over-the-counter medications
- Illicit drug use

**Signs and Symptoms**
- Tinnitus
- Hypertension

**Differential**
- Hyperthyroidism, thyroid storm, Graves Disease
- Heart failure
- Stroke (hemorrhagic or ischemic)
- Drugs of abuse (amphetamines, cocaine, PCP)
- Sleep apnea
- Anxiety disorder
- MI
- Primary Aldosteronism
- Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

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**Treatment Steps**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td>Place patient in position of comfort</td>
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<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>Cardiac monitor</td>
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<td>Consider, IV</td>
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<td><strong>Consider, 12-Lead ECG</strong></td>
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<td>Stroke/CVA/TIA</td>
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<td>Chest Pain: STEMI</td>
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<td><strong>Notify receiving facility. Consider Base Hospital for medical direction</strong></td>
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