

ACE Inhibitor–INDUCED ANGIOEDEMA



You have been given this patient information because there is a strong possibility you may have ACE inhibitor-induced angioedema (swelling).

Please stop your ACE inhibitor and contact your GP so a suitable alternative is prescribed.

ACE inhibitors (ACEi) are drugs normally used to treat high blood pressure, kidney disease or heart failure.

They are a common cause of drug-induced angioedema (swelling), which can happen in up to 1% of patients taking these drugs. It can occur with any ACEi and is not related to the dose.

In more than half of cases, angioedema starts during the first week of treatment, but it may happen at any time during the course of treatment, from hours after starting to years of stable therapy. You may have been put on an ACEi recently or have been taking it for years with no problems. Swelling can happen in either case.

Common manifestations of ACEi-induced angioedema are swelling of the lips, tongue, throat or face. Another (less common) presentation is abdominal pain and diarrhoea due to swelling of the gut. This problem does not cause hives or itching.

The diagnosis of ACEi-induced angioedema is based on the presence of angioedema in a typical area, without itching or hives, in a patient taking an ACEi. There are no definitive tests.

The main treatment of ACEi-induced angioedema is **to stop the ACEi and to strictly avoid all other drugs from this group**. Episodes of swelling may still occur for three months or more after stopping the ACEi, but usually they become less frequent and severe.