Mercy EMS Education

Clinical Operations Team

Fine Tuning Our Practice

January 20, 2025

ACE Inhibitor Angioedema

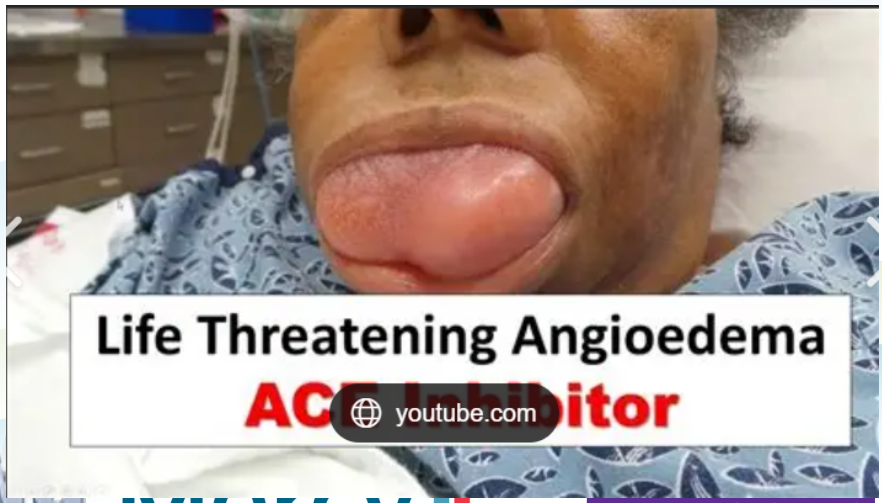
Angioedema is swelling in the tissue under the skin. It's most common in lips, eyelids, tongue, genitals, hands and feet. Causes include allergies, medication side effects, vibrations, inherited gene changes and some health conditions.

Specifically, ACE inhibitor angioedema is caused by the class of medication: ACE inhibitor (lisinopril or other blood pressure medications typically ending in "pril")

ACE Inhibitor Angioedema typically can cause swelling in the lips and/or tongue

- **The largest concern is with airway compromise to the enlarging lips and tongue**
- **This swelling can make intubation difficult or impossible due to the swelling**
- **Allergic reaction protocol is reasonable for those that we are unsure if this is from an allergy or from ACE Inhibitor Angioedema (however, Benadryl will not typically effective for ACE inhibitor angioedema)**
- **There are many "experimental" treatments including FFP infusions, TXA, and new FDA approved medications that are being trialed in the ED.**
- **Cool rags or ICE placed on the affected area are also suggested to limit some of the edema.**
- **This can be life threatening and all patients should be monitored in the hospital for many hours or even days before discharge.**





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