

# Angioedema (Quincke's edema)

**Quincke's edema** is an acute, non-inflammatory swelling of the skin and subcutaneous tissue or mucous membranes and submucous tissues, that can lead to suffocation if it occurs in the larynx. náhled|Swollen hand in a patient with hereditary angioedema

## Etiology

The cause of edema is a **lack of serum inhibitor of the C1 component of complement** (C1-INH). This leads to autoactivation of the C1 component, consumption of the C2 and C4 components and release of kinin mediators inducing edema.

We distinguish two forms:

- **hereditary** – an autosomal dominantly inherited mutation in the C1-INH gene that leads to a decrease in the level of the inhibitor or its dysfunction;

 For more information see *Hereditary angioedema*.

- **acquired**
  1. increased degradation of C1-INH in malignant disease (type I),
  2. the presence of autoantibodies against the inhibitor (type II),
  3. a type I allergic reaction that takes place under the skin.

## Clinical picture

The swelling is pale (non-inflammatory). It occurs mainly on the **eyelids, lips, external genitalia, skin above the joints of the hands and feet**. It is formed within minutes, and disappears in a few days (1-3 days). It may be accompanied by vomiting, diarrhea and headaches. It mainly affects younger women and is often recurrent.

## Diagnosis

- Determination of C2, C4 complement and C1-INH levels;;
- General examination - especially hematological

## Differential diagnosis

It is necessary to distinguish swellings of other etiology arising from various diseases - herpes zoster, lymphedema , erysipelas , trauma.

## Therapy

- C1-INH concentrate or frozen plasma;
- prophylaxis: androgens, antifibrinolytics;
- acquired forms: type I - necessary treatment of malignant disease, type II - immunosuppressive treatment.

## Links

### Related articles

- Hereditary angioedema
- Immunopathological reaction type I

### Source

- BENEŠ, Jiří. Study materials [online]. © 2007. [feeling. 11.1.2011]. < <http://jirben2.chytrak.cz/> >.

### Used literature

- VOKURKA, Martin and Jan HUGO, et al. Great medical dictionary. 9th edition. Prague: Maxdorf, 2009. 1159 pp. ISBN 978-80-7345-202-5 .
- ŠTORK, Jiří, et al. Dermatovenerology. 1st edition. Prague: Galén, 2008. 502 pp. ISBN 978-80-7262-371-6 .

