

all about HAE

Dear Emergency Medical Professional,

Please be aware that my patient, _____, has a rare, but potentially life-threatening, genetic medical condition called hereditary angioedema (HAE).

About HAE

HAE is a rare, inherited disease that can cause episodes of considerable swelling in various body tissues. People with HAE usually either have low levels of a blood protein called C1 esterase inhibitor (C1-INH) or their C1-INH does not function properly.

Not an allergic reaction

During an attack, the oedema may appear to be allergic in nature; however, HAE is not an allergic condition, and the patient typically will not respond to antihistamines or corticosteroids.

Life-threatening symptoms

Please note that if an HAE patient experiences a swelling attack in the face, mouth, throat, or airway, this can be a serious and potentially life-threatening condition requiring immediate emergency care.

Potentially life-threatening symptoms in HAE attacks:

- Extreme dizziness or fainting
- Hoarse voice or laryngitis
- Significant lip or facial swelling
- Shortness of breath
- Swollen tongue
- Throat swelling
- Whistling or wheezing when breathing

Some patients may experience symptoms in advance of an attack, such as fatigue, nausea and flu-like feelings, bowel movement changes, urticaria, non-itchy rash, and tingling. Individual patients are often aware of specific symptoms that herald the onset of their attacks.

Treatment for attacks

My patient is being treated with _____ for HAE.

Additional information about this treatment:

Contact information

If you have questions about HAE or the patient's needs, I can be reached using the following details:

Office telephone: _____

Email address: _____

In emergencies, please call: _____

To find out more about HAE, please visit: www.allaboutHAE.co.uk

Sincerely,

all about HAE

Dear _____,

My patient, _____, has asked me to tell you about his/her diagnosis of a rare, but potentially life-threatening, medical condition. This genetic condition is called hereditary angioedema (HAE).

About HAE

HAE is a rare disease that can cause considerable swelling in various body parts. During an HAE attack, the symptoms may appear to be allergic in nature; however, HAE is not an allergic condition and the patient typically will not respond to antihistamines or corticosteroids.

Please note that if my patient experiences a swelling attack in the face, mouth, throat or airway, this can be a serious and potentially life-threatening condition requiring immediate emergency care.

Specific triggers and symptoms of an attack

HAE attacks often occur spontaneously without a known cause. At other times, however, specific triggers such as anxiety, emotional or physical stress, hormonal changes, minor trauma, surgery, and common illnesses such as colds and flu can elicit attacks.

Some patients experience symptoms in advance of an HAE attack. These symptoms may include any of the following: fatigue, nausea, flu-like feelings, diarrhoea, non-itchy rash, or tingling.

Individual patients often are aware of specific symptoms that occur before the onset of their attacks and, when possible, will avoid known triggers. On occasion, my patient will be aware of symptoms in advance of an attack and may need to be excused from school for treatment purposes.

To find out more about HAE, please visit: www.allaboutHAE.co.uk.

Treatment for attacks

My patient is being treated with _____ for HAE.

Additional information about this treatment:

Contact information

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Office telephone: _____

Email address: _____

In emergencies, please call: _____

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Sincerely,

all about HAE

Dear _____,

Our mutual patient, _____, has asked me to tell you about his/her diagnosis of a rare, but potentially life-threatening, genetic medical condition called hereditary angioedema (HAE).

About HAE

HAE is a rare inherited disease that can cause episodes of considerable swelling in various body tissues. People with HAE usually either have low levels of a blood protein called C1 esterase inhibitor (C1-INH) or their C1-INH does not function properly.

Not an allergic reaction

During an attack, the oedema may appear to be allergic in nature; however, HAE is **not** an allergic condition, and the patient typically will not respond to antihistamines or corticosteroids.

Specific triggers and symptoms of an attack

HAE attacks can be triggered by emotional or physical stress, such as dental and surgical/other medical procedures, and therefore HAE attacks often occur more frequently **after** these have taken place.

Because some patients experience stress in **advance** of these sorts of medical procedures, however, they may experience an HAE attack **before** or even **during** them.

Check your patient for symptoms prior to the procedure

Prior to the start of a medical procedure, please verify with the patient that he/she is not currently experiencing prodromal symptoms. These might include fatigue, nausea/flu-like feelings, bowel movement change, urticaria-like skin eruptions, non-itchy rash or tingling. Patients are often aware of their specific triggers and symptoms, and know how to avoid them. On occasion, my patient may be aware of symptoms well in advance of an attack and will be able to alert you to an oncoming attack.

Please note that if my patient experiences a swelling attack in the face, mouth, throat or airway, this can be a serious and potentially life-threatening condition requiring immediate emergency care.

Treatment for attacks

My patient is being treated with _____ for HAE.

Additional information about this treatment:

Contact information

If you have questions about HAE or the patient's needs, I can be reached using the following details:

Office telephone: _____

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In emergencies, please call: _____

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