**HEREDITARY ANGIOEDEMA (HAE)**

**What?**

HAE is a **RARE AND SERIOUS GENETIC DISORDER** characterized by recurring painful attacks of **SWELLING** in different areas of the body. The severity of the attacks can vary between patients and throughout an individual patient’s lifetime. Attacks can be painful and disfiguring and, when they occur in the **THROAT**, can be **LIFE-THREATENING** due to the risk of suffocation.

**Who?**

- **About 20-25%** of cases of HAE occur **SPONTANEOUSLY**, without previous family history.
- **HAE affects men and women** and people of all ethnic groups at approximately the same rates.

**When?**

Although **HAE SWELLING ATTACKS ARE UNPREDICTABLE**, some can have attacks as frequently as every three days, while others have attacks once a month or even less often.

**Where?**

Almost any part of the body can be affected by a swelling attack, but attacks most commonly occur in the face, extremities (arms, hands, legs, feet), abdomen or throat.

**How?**

**is HAE diagnosed and treated?**

There are three blood tests to confirm HAE:
1. C4
2. C1-inhibitor quantitative (antigenic)
3. C1-inhibitor functional

**DIAGNOSIS**

It can take 8 years or longer for patients to get an accurate diagnosis.

**TREATMENTS**

There are six **Health Canada approved treatments**.

- **PREVENTION**

- **Treatments can also be administered on a regular basis to help prevent attacks.**
- **Treatments exist to help reduce symptoms of an attack but need to be taken as early as possible to be most effective.**

- **Almost any part of the body can be affected by a swelling attack, but attacks most commonly occur in the face, extremities (arms, hands, legs, feet), abdomen or throat.**

**HEREDITARY ANGIOEDEMA (HAE) Canada**

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