

Dry Non-productive Cough

[Dry and Non-productive Coughing Coffee-pot](#)

ACE inhibitors sometimes cause a side effect which produces a dry non productive cough related to bradykinin release. These patients should notify their physician immediately if this side effect occurs.

Hypotension

[Hippo-BP](#)

The first dose can have the most impact on an individual's blood pressure. It is important to always check the blood pressure before administration and monitor BP for 2 hours with the first dose administration. Follow provider recommendations, commonly hold medication if systolic blood pressure is 90-100.

Dizziness

[Dizzy-eyes](#)

Because of the dilated blood vessels, orthostatic hypotensive can occur. This can make the patient feel dizzy or lightheaded, especially when changing positions quickly.

Possible Hyperkalemia

[Hiker-banana](#)

Aldosterone assists in the reabsorption of sodium and water in the kidneys, exchanging out potassium. Due to suppressed production of aldosterone from the renin pathway, there is a decrease in sodium and water reabsorption, and an increase in potassium retention. This can lead to hyperkalemia in patients. It is important to remember not to give ACE Inhibitors with a potassium-sparing diuretic and to monitor electrolyte levels in patients.

Angioedema

[Angel-edamame with a Swollen Face](#)

Angioedema is rare reaction and is characterized by rapid swelling of the face, tongue, glottis, and pharynx with giant wheals. Angioedema from ACE inhibitors typically occur in the African American population. Angioedema occurs through the same process as the dry cough. The increase in bradykinin causes the increase in vascular permeability resulting in edema. It is also important to note that NSAIDS may reduce the effectiveness of ACE inhibitors, as well as, increase the potential of angioedema to occur.

Nursing Considerations

Slowly Change Position

[Slow-tortoise getting up from Delta-chair](#)

Orthostatic hypotension can occur in patients that take blood pressure medications. It is important to educate patients to change positions slowly to prevent a drop in blood pressure and feeling dizzy.

Do Not Stop Abruptly

[Can't Stop Cold-turkey](#)

Educate the patient to not miss a dose. A sudden drop in the blood level of the medication can result in a surge of angiotensin II and aldosterone, which can increase the blood pressure causing a hypertensive emergency.