- important things from the history are: a disorder in which post-capillary venule leakage 1. details surrounding attacks leads to subdermal collection of fluid leading to possible offending agents symptoms well-demarcated non-pitting oedema definition 2. any family history NB: urticaria is fundamentally the same 3. drug exposures & food exposures process but occurs in the dermis - patients usually present with well-demarcated types include: angioedema in face, extremities or genitalia signs 1. IqE-mediated - most important thing to assess is airway - results from antigen ingestion or parenteral exposure 2. complement mediated (immune - usually no investigation is required complex depostion & serum sickness) - characterized by fever, angioedema, arthralgias, - Hereditary angioedema is characterized by low levels investigation urticaria, and palpable purpura. of C1 esterase inhibitor (C1INH) or elevated levels of 3. hereditary dysfunctional C1 esterase inhibitor. Between attacks, - characterised by recurrent self-limited attacks low levels of C4 are noted. that may be precipitated by local trauma angioedema 4. idiopathic - secure the airway. This should involve most drugs associated with angioedema include: skilled person available & may require nasotracheal - opiates intubation with fibreoptics or cricothyroidotomy aetiology - dextran - treat with steroids, antihistamines - ACEIs & s.c. adrenaline if required - aspirin - NSAIDs - Hereditary angioedema is more refractory to the use of subcutaneous epinephrine, common triggers include antihistamines, and steroids. Stanozolol, an - Hymenoptera envenomations treatment anabolic steroid, and danazol, a gonadotropin - Food allergy inhibitor, may be used for the acute phase of - Local trauma (eg, dental procedure, tonsillectomy) an attack of hereditary angioedema. complications include: Often, patients are given aminocaproic acid - dysphonia for maintenance replacement of C1INH to prevent - dysphagia attacks. Attempt to replace C1INH during the acute - airway obstruction phase. If C1INH concentrate is unavailable, FFP

may be used in the interim.

- death