

## E-Pearl of the Week

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### **Alteplase-associated hemi-orolingual angioedema**

About five percent of patients that receive intravenous alteplase for acute ischemic stroke suffer orolingual angioedema. This is characterized by swelling of the tongue with or without involvement of the lips. The angioedema is usually contralateral to the cerebral infarction but can be bilateral. It is thought that autonomic dysregulation, such as when the insular area is damaged, contributes to the pathophysiology of this phenomenon. A single case has been reported where the angioedema was ipsilateral to a thalamic infarct.

### **Reference**

Hill MD, Lye T, Moss H, et al. [Hemi-orolingual angioedema and ACE inhibition after alteplase treatment of stroke.](#) *Neurology* 2003;60:1525-1527.