Bradykinin has been implicated to contribute to allergic inflammation and the pathogenesis of allergic conditions. It binds to endothelial B(1) and B(2) receptors and exerts potent pharmacological and physiological effects, notably, decreased blood pressure, increased vascular permeability and the promotion of classical symptoms of inflammation such as vasodilation, hyperthermia, oedema and pain. Towards potential clinical benefit, bradykinin has also been shown to exert potent antithrombogenic, antiproliferative and antifibrogenic effects. The development of pharmacologically active substances, such as bradykinin receptor blockers, opens up new therapeutic options that require further research into bradykinin. This review presents current understanding surrounding the role of bradykinin in nonallergic angioedema and other conditions seen by allergists and emergency physicians, and its potential role as a therapeutic target.