1–Skin rash or burn Prolonged use of hot packs and heating pads, or application of a heat source that is overly hot without a barrier on the skin, can cause contact burns. Due to the sudden decrease in blood pressure, individuals who often experience orthostatic hypotension (dizziness or light–headedness upon standing) may find certain heat treatments problematic.3–Increased swelling and inflammation Heat therapy is not recommended immediately after physical activity, after injury, or during an infection.