

Chest Pain

Chest pain is soreness or pain that is felt along the front of the body between the neck and belly.

Causes

There are many causes of chest pain. The heart is rarely the cause in children. In children, chest pain is most often muscle or bone. It comes from the chest wall muscle, bone, or cartilage. Other causes of chest pain include:

- Asthma
- Pneumonia
- Heartburn
- Gastroesophageal (acid) reflux (GERD)
- Anxiety

Tests and Treatment

Testing depends on the symptoms. The tests may include an EKG (electrocardiogram), chest x-ray, or ECG (echocardiogram).

Treatment depends on the cause of the pain. Treatment may include medicine for muscle pain and antacids for acid reflux.

Who to Call

Pediatric Cardiology
(608) 263-6420

Adult Congenital Heart Disease
(608) 890-5700

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 3/2025 University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#6854