

Chest pain Chest pain can arise from the chest wall, parietal pleura, mediastinal structures, tracheobronchial tree, pericardium, oesophagus and subdiaphragmatic organs (liver and gallbladder). Herpes zoster infection (shingles) may start with superficial itch or burning pain in a thoracic dermatome, followed by the appearance of a vesicular rash (a 'belt of roses from hell'). Costochondritis (called Tietze's syndrome when costochondral swelling is present) is idiopathic inflammation of the costochondral cartilages adjoining the sternum, with acute localised pain and tenderness. Exacerbating or relieving factors: worsening with cough or deep breaths suggests pleural disease.