

Chest Pain: Scope and Clinical Importance

Epidemiology and Health Care Utilization

- Chest pain is the **second most common emergency department (ED) presentation** among U.S. adults, accounting for **>6.5 million ED visits annually** (4.7% of all ED visits).¹
 - Chest pain also results in **nearly 4 million outpatient visits per year** in the United States.²
 - Although chest pain is frequently **noncardiac in origin**, it requires careful evaluation due to the prevalence and potential severity of coronary disease.
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Coronary Disease Context

- **Coronary artery disease (CAD)** affects **>18.2 million U.S. adults** and remains the **leading cause of death** in both men and women, with **>365,000 deaths annually**.³
 - Chest pain is the **most common presenting symptom of CAD** in both sexes.
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Diagnostic Challenge

- The lifetime prevalence of chest pain in the United States is **20–40%**.⁴
 - **Women experience chest pain more frequently than men**.⁵
 - Among ED patients presenting with chest pain:
 - Only **~5.1%** are diagnosed with **acute coronary syndrome (ACS)**.⁶
 - **>50%** are ultimately found to have a **noncardiac cause**.⁶
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Clinical Implication

- Differentiating **serious cardiac etiologies** from **benign causes** is essential, given the **low prevalence of ACS** but the **high mortality burden associated with CAD**.^{1–6}
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References

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