Pericarditis

What is it?

> Swelling and irritation of the thin, saclike tissue surrounding your heart (pericardium).

Symptoms:

- Sharp chest pain that gets worse when you cough, lie down, or take a deep breath

Pericarditis is usually mild and goes away without treatment. If it's severe, you may need medication or, rarely, surgery.

> It may be difficult to tell the difference between sudden (acute) pericarditis and pain due to a heart attack. If you have sudden, unexplained chest pain, seek emergency medical help.

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