



6. Do you have a burning sensation in your chest that either feels worse when you eat or drink, or feels better when you eat or drink but gets worse a few hours later?

↓ No

7. Do you have stinging or burning pain that started after you had a case of SHINGLES?

↓ No

\*8. Do you have episodes of wheezing and a cough that won't go away?

↓ No

9. Do you have a tight feeling in your chest and an ongoing cough that produces a lot of mucus?

↓ No

10. Do you have an ongoing, mild cough, has your shortness of breath been increasing slowly for years, and have you been a smoker or been exposed to dust and fumes where you work?

↓ No

11. Do you have a fever, chills or night sweats, or are you coughing up bloody mucus?

You may have an ULCER, IRRITATION OF THE ESOPHAGUS or SPASM of the muscles of the esophagus.

Yes

If the discomfort is in your upper stomach, and gets worse when you lean forward or lie down, you may have a HIATAL HERNIA. This is a common problem in which the top of the stomach is pushed into the lower chest after eating.

Limit your alcohol intake, eat smaller meals, and avoid fatty foods. Try an antacid to help relieve your discomfort. Sleeping on 2 or 3 pillows or a foam wedge, or raising the head of your bed, may also help.

If these steps don't relieve your symptoms, see your doctor.

Yes

Your pain may be caused by POSTHERPETIC NEURALGIA, a condition that can remain after the shingles infection.

See your doctor. In many cases, postherpetic neuralgia can be treated with over-the-counter pain medicines and capsaicin cream.

Yes

Your chest discomfort and shortness of breath may be caused by ASTHMA.

See your doctor right away. Asthma is very treatable, but it can be a serious condition.

Yes

These symptoms may be caused by CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, especially if you smoke.

See your doctor. If you smoke, STOP SMOKING. Also, avoid breathing in anything that can irritate your lungs.

Yes

EMPHYSEMA may be the cause of your problem.

See your doctor. If you smoke, STOP SMOKING. Also, avoid breathing in anything that can irritate your lungs.

Yes

You may have an infectious illness, such as TUBERCULOSIS, or a FUNGAL INFECTION. A more serious problem, such as LUNG CANCER, could also be the cause.

See your doctor right away.

For more information, please talk to your doctor. If you think your problem is serious, call your doctor right away.

*This tool has been reviewed by doctors and is for general educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for medical advice. The information in this tool should not be relied upon to make decisions about your health. Always consult your family doctor with questions about your individual condition(s) and/or circumstances. Source: American Academy of Family Physicians. Family Health & Medical Guide. Dallas: Word Publishing; 1996.*