

Thoracic pain

Thoracic [pain](#), also known as middle back pain or upper back pain, is much less common than lower back pain or neck pain. If you suffer from thoracic back pain, you're likely looking for relief. We can help. This article discusses the most common thoracic pain causes, symptoms, risk factors, and treatments for finding relief. Frequently thoracic back pain has a benign musculoskeletal origin, but may indicate a more serious underlying problem. The word thoracic means "pertaining to the chest" hence the thoracic spine forms the back of the chest wall. With markedly less mobility than the cervical spine above and lumbar spine below, the thoracic spine's main function is to provide protection for the vital organs in the chest, such as the heart and lungs, as well as allow stability for standing upright.

van der Hoeven et al. from Hagaziekenhuis, The Hague, and Leiden The [Netherlands](#), present the case of a woman who developed severe nightly [thoracic pain](#) during pregnancy without neurological deficits upon examination. Spontaneously after childbirth, the pain was markedly reduced. Further investigation showed that her pain was caused by an [intramedullary ependymoma](#) in the [cervicothoracic](#) spinal cord. [Gross total resection](#) was accomplished, and the patient has been free of [pain](#) ever since. With this case, the authors want to draw attention to a rare, but possibly very disabling, cause of increasing nightly thoracic pain during pregnancy. Spontaneous improvement after childbirth could erroneously cause postponement of further investigation ¹⁾.

¹⁾

van der Hoeven MEM, de Pont LMH, Koppen H. Severe Nightly Thoracic Pain Presenting during Pregnancy: A Case Report. Case Rep Neurol. 2018 Jun 7;10(2):135-139. doi: 10.1159/000488756. eCollection 2018 May-Aug. PubMed PMID: 29983701; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6031941.

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