Box 1

Symptom classification for angina and non-anginal chest pain

The presence or absence of the following three factors should be noted:

- a constricting discomfort in the front of the chest, or in the neck, shoulders, jaw, or arms
- the discomfort is precipitated by physical exertion
- the discomfort is relieved by rest or GTN within about 5 minutes

All 3 factors present = typical angina
2 factors = atypical angina
1 or none of these factors = non-anginal chest pain