
Endoskooppisen sympatektomian vaikuttavuus ja turvallisuus [Effectiveness and safety of endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy]

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Record Status

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Authors' objectives

Endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy aims to reduce excessive sweating in face and hands and flushing of the face due to a disproportionate function of the sympathetic nervous system. The treatment is provided as an endoscopic procedure, where the upper thoracic chain of the sympathetic nerve trunk is transected or clamped. In Finland this treatment has also been used for social phobia.

The aim of this report was to assess by a systematic review the effectiveness and safety of endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy for these particular indications.

Authors' conclusions

In conclusion, due to lack of controlled trials there is no reliable evidence for the effectiveness of endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy for excessive sweating in the face and hands or for flushing of the face. Neither is there any evidence that this treatment has an impact on social phobia. Endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy is associated with significant immediate and long-term adverse effects.

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