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

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Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

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 transsected 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.

Project page URL
http://finohta.stakes.fi/NR/rdonlyres/A4F5CFC3-A6B4-43F5-8E2A-49689F3B7980/0/r026f.pdf

INAHTA brief and checklist


Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Flushing; Hyperhidrosis; Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures; Sweating; Thoracotomy

Language Published
English, Finnish

Country of organisation
Finland
English Summary
English summary available

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AccessionNumber
32005000254

Date bibliographic record published
01/06/2005

Date abstract record published
01/06/2005