



To refer a patient or request a consult, call (312) 942-6642

Rush University System for Health

Minimally Invasive Sympathectomy for Hyperhidrosis

Minimally invasive thoracic sympathectomy, also known as endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy (ETS), is a surgical procedure in which a portion of the sympathetic nerve trunk in the thoracic region is ablated.

It is a minimally invasive division of the sympathetic chain used to treat hyperhidrosis, as well as facial blushing, Raynaud's disease, Reflex sympathectomy dystrophy, and ventricular tachycardia.

How does the procedure work?

ETS is done with video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) using 2 or 3 incisions that are 5 mm on each side. The sympathetic chain is divided at the level corresponding to the condition being treated. Patients are generally discharged on the same day.

Who is not a candidate?

Patients who are not suitable for general anesthesia would not be considered ideal candidates for this procedure as well as patients with a history of chest surgery.

What are the risks?

ETS is a safe operation and usually no problems are encountered. As with any operation, problems can occur and there is a small risk of injury inside the chest.

Risks include:

- Compensatory hyperhidrosis
- Gustatory sweating
- Horner syndrome
- Pneumothorax
- Chronic rhinitis
- Hand dryness
- Pain



Rush University Medical Center is ranked among the best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* for cancer care and pulmonology and lung surgery.

Learn more:
rush.edu/thoracic-surgery-services

Our team



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Rush Oak Park Hospital

Medical Office Building
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Rush Copley Medical Center

2040 Ogden Ave., Suite 304
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Rush Cancer Care

DuPage Medical Group Lisle

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Silver Cross Hospital

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