

Video-assisted thoracic surgery for lung volume reduction surgery.

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Lung volume reduction surgery by video thoracoscopy can result in significant improvement in quality of life and pulmonary function for selected patients suffering from severe emphysema. Clinical trials comparing the use of lasers versus staples, unilateral versus bilateral procedures, and video surgery versus mediansternotomy are summarized. Patient selection and patient care issues are addressed. Information gathered from the selection, evaluation, and study of almost 500 patients treated surgically for emphysema at a single institution is summarized.