

Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery - Video Assisted Thoracic Surgery: Technique and Indications

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Abstract

Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS) is already practised worldwide, in almost every condition addressed by open thoracic surgery. As part of minimally invasive thoracic surgery (MITS), VATS offers to patients and to healthcare providers excellent results and great satisfactions. Learning and performing VATS use different pathways in trainees and in experienced surgeons. This article presents VATS in its essence: classification, indications, contraindications, instruments and tools, incisions and access, troubleshooting, learning curve and training. We wish that the information helps our colleagues, both trainees and experienced thoracic surgeons, to start and continue performing VATS as standard care in thoracic surgery.

Key words: Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS), minimally invasive thoracic surgery (MITS), thoracic surgery technique, lung cancer, learning VATS, training in VATS