

Mayo Clinic Minute

Minimally invasive procedure for emphysema

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	According to the CDC, almost 15.7 million people in the U.S. report they've been diagnosed with COPD.
Sebastian Fernandez-Bussy, M.D. Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Mayo Clinic	"COPD means chronic pulmonary obstructive disease. So part of the COPD group is emphysema."
Vivien Williams	Dr. Sebastian Fernandez-Bussy says a minimally invasive treatment called "endoscopic lung volume reduction" can help improve symptoms of emphysema for people who no longer respond to medical treatment.
Sebastian Fernandez-Bussy, M.D.	"We go down with a small scope through the mouth to the lungs."
Vivien Williams	Then they place one-way valves in the lungs that allow air that has entered the lungs through holes that develop during emphysema to escape.
Sebastian Fernandez-Bussy, M.D.	"So with time, that part of the lung with the most emphysema will get shrunk, and that will allow the rest of the lung with less emphysema to have more space to expand and function"
Vivien Williams	The treatment is not a cure, but can help improve symptoms.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.