



# Alternative surgical approaches for challenging cases in thoracic surgery—Preface

I am pleased to present this *Journal of Visualized Surgery* special series dedicated to “Alternative surgical approaches for challenging cases in thoracic surgery”.

In the last decade, thoracic surgery has rapidly moved forward to new approaches. The introduction and diffusion of VATS lobectomy represents a watershed and now this technique represents the gold standard for pulmonary resection. Progressively, the indication for a minimally invasive approach moved from initial stage pulmonary disease to more advanced ones, with resection extended to other organs, invading fields generally considered reserved to open approaches. Concurrently, new approaches emerged as robotic surgery, no more limited to the mediastinal pathology.

With the increasing experience, also challenging cases are now approached through minimally invasive procedure or hybrid ones.

We therefore aim to provide with this focused series an overview about the possible and, sometimes, unprecedented approaches to complex cases. This may be helpful to other surgeons when facing challenging cases and to stimulate their imagination, which represents one of the fundamental elements for the progress of surgery.

I therefore hope you will enjoy reading these interesting articles.

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Federico Rea

**Federico Rea, MD**

*Department of Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Sciences, Division of Thoracic Surgery,  
University of Padova, Padova, Italy. (Email: federico.rea@unipd.it)*

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