# Is Excessive Sweating Focal or Generalized?

## Focal

Are there signs and symptoms of:
- Neurologic injury/disease
- Dermatologic syndromes
- Gustatory sweating

**Yes** → Further workup

**No** → Is the sweating pattern mainly palmoplantar and/or axillary?

**Yes** →

Are there signs and symptoms of:
- Raynaud's disease
- Erythromelalgia
- AV fistula
- Cold injury
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Nail-patella syndrome
- Pachyonychia congenita
- Pachydermoperiostosis

**Yes** → Further workup

**No** →

**No** →

- Onset in childhood or adolescence?
- Family history?
- Excessive sweating mainly bilateral, involving palms, soles, and/or axillae?
- No sweating during sleep?
- Otherwise healthy?

**No** → Further workup

**Yes** → Diagnosis: Primary hyperhidrosis

## Generalized

Are there signs and symptoms of:
- Infection (acute or chronic)
- Neoplasia
- Metabolic/endocrine disease (diabetes, thyroid, pheochromocytoma, carcinoid)
- High catecholamine state (respiratory failure, heart disease, pain, drug/ETOH withdrawal)
- Drug therapy (propanolol, antidepressants, pilocarpine, physostigmine)
- Neurologic disease (dysautonomia, diencephalic epilepsy, hypothalamic lesion, structural brain abnormality)

**No** →

Consider medications that may cause sweating as a side effect and adjust dosages/prescriptions appropriately. Consider other underlying medical conditions that may cause sweating and treat appropriately.

INTERNATIONAL HYPERHIDROSIS SOCIETY℠
Taking action. Taking care.
www.SweatHelp.org
Updated 11/10/06