

Diseases and Conditions that Can Cause Diaphoresis

A large number of diseases and medical conditions can cause diaphoresis (excess perspiration or sweating). Some of the following diseases and medical conditions are common and their names may be easily recognized even by the non-physician. Others are more rare or obscure. This list is provided as a resource and a service. It is not exhaustive and is in no way meant to replace consultation with a medical professional. Although sweating is a known side effect of the conditions listed below, only a percentage of people affected by these conditions may experience undue sweating. This percentage may vary greatly.

Common Diseases/Conditions

Acute Febrile Illness (e.g. infection)
Alcoholism
Diabetes Mellitus
Gout
Heart Failure
Hyperthyroidism
Lymphoma
Menopause
Obesity
Parkinson's disease
Pregnancy
Rheumatoid Arthritis

Nervous System Mediated Conditions

Cortical Condition (mediated by the cerebral cortex)

Congenital autonomic dysfunction with universal pain loss
Congenital ichthyosiform erythroderma
Epidermolysis bullosa simplex
Familial dysautonomia
Gopalan's syndrome
Palmoplantar keratodermas
Pachyonychia congenita (Jadassohn-Lewandowsky syndrome)
Pressure and postural hyperhidrosis
Nail-patella syndrome

Hypothalamic Conditions (mediated by the hypothalamus)

Acute infection
Alcoholism
Carcinoid syndrome
Cardiac shock
Chédiak-Higashi syndrome
Chronic arsenic intoxication
Chronic infection (e.g: tuberculosis, malaria, brucellosis)
Cold injury
Debility
Diabetes mellitus
Drug addiction (e.g. cocaine, amphetamines)
Drugs
Familial dysautonomia
Erythrocyanosis
Essential hyperhidrosis
Exercise
Gout
Heart failure (congestive heart failure)
Hines-Bannick syndrome
Hyperpituitarism
Hyperthyroidism
Hypoglycemia
Hypothalamic mass (e.g.: tumor, abscess)
Idiopathic unilateral circumscribed hyperhidrosis
Infantile scurvy
Lymphoma
Menopause
Obesity
Parkinson's disease
Pheochromocytoma
Phenylketonuria
POEMS syndrome
Porphyria
Post-encephalitis
Pregnancy
Pressure and postural hyperhidrosis
Raynaud's phenomenon or disease
Reflex sympathetic dystrophy
Rheumatoid arthritis
Rickets
Stroke/cerebrovascular accident/transient ischemic attack (affecting hypothalamus)
Symmetric lividity of the palms and soles
Vitiligo

Medullary/Spinal Conditions (mediated by the medulla oblongata or spinal nerves)

- Auriculotemporal syndrome
- Encephalitis
- Granulosis rubra nasi
- Physiologic gustatory sweating
- Post-traumatic (spinal cord transection or thoracic sympathetic chain injury)
- Syringomyelia
- Tabes dorsalis

Peripheral-Reflexive Conditions

- Drugs/medications
- Perilsional (e.g. burn)

Non-Neural Conditions

- Arteriovenous fistula
- Blue rubber bleb nevus syndrome
- Cold erythema
- Drugs
- Glomus tumors
- Klippel-Trenaunay syndrome
- Local heat
- Maffucci's syndrome
- Organoid and sudoriparous nevi

This list is adapted from: Hurley HJ. *Diseases of the Eccrine Sweat Glands*. In: Bologna JL, Jorizzo JL, Rapini RP et al (eds). *Dermatology*, Spain: Mosby, 2001; Chapter 41