Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)

Type: Chronic, progressive interstitial lung disease w/ unknown cause
Patients: Men and women **age 50+**
Presentation: Gradual onset of symptoms.
Diagnosis: **Major criteria** (all 4 required): Exclusion of other known causes (cancer, NSIP, AIP); abnormal Pulmonary Function Tests w/ evidence of restriction; bibasilar reticular abnormalities; transbronchial lung biopsy or BAL that rules out alternative diagnosis.
Minor criteria (3 of 4 required): Age > 50; insidious, unexplained onset of dyspnea; illness duration > 3 months; bibasilar inspiratory crackles ("rales").
Symptoms: Dyspnea (difficulty breathing), dry cough, clubbing, rales. These are non-specific for IPF.
Causes: Unknown. Suspects include – genetics, smoking, autoimmune disease, gastroesophageal reflux disease, sarcoidosis, scleroderma, RA, radiation-induced fibrosis
Treatment: No real consensus on a standard treatment; varies by patient. Options include – medications, supplemental oxygen, pulmonary rehabilitation & lung transplant. **Meds**: Prednisone, Cytoxan, Azathioprine, NAC
Prognosis: 30-50% die within 5 years.

Patient Lifestyle
Pulmonary Function Test: Complete pulmonary analysis including chest X-ray, blood gas values, pulmonary function values, bronchoscopy. **Spirometry** reveals reduction in vital capacity. Decreased static **lung volume** = restriction. Reduced **carbon monoxide diffusing capacity** is characteristic of IPF.
Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL): Process in which physician obtains respiratory cells using a saline wash and suction during a bronchoscopy
Honeycombing: Pattern of scarring sometimes seen in IPF patients with scarred alveoli. Indicative on an X-ray of IPF.

Population Stats
Incidence: current estimates = 200,000 Americans have IPF. But as of today there has been no formal study to determine incidence.

Company Information

Take Your Research Further. Faster.

Conversant Healthcare Systems, Inc. (Conversant Bio)
601 Genome Way, Suite 1200
Huntsville, AL 35806
(866) 838-2798 phone
(256) 705-4103 fax
www.conversantbio.com

To find out how we can help with your research needs, email us at sales@conversantbio.com