



**Family Medicine  
Grand Rounds**  
**October 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 8-9 am**

**UCLA** David Geffen School of Medicine

**Interstitial Lung  
Disease: An  
Overview for the  
Generalist**

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Pulmonary Critical Care Sleep Medicine

**I have no conflicts of interest to disclose**

# Lecture Objectives

- **Overview of the common ILDs**
- **Discuss the epidemiology of ILD, including populations at high risk for developing ILD and significant disparities in diagnosis**
- **Develop familiarity with the pathophysiology, symptoms and diagnosis of ILDs**
- **Discuss “Best Evidence” in the treatment of ILD**

# Let's begin with a case....

*A 75-year-old man presents to your clinic with a 12-month history of dry cough and shortness of breath*

- No other symptoms or medical problems
- No medications
- Seen at urgent care and told he had “allergies” and given antihistamine

SHx: Former smoker with a 40-pack-year history, and he is a retired carpenter. He has no pets and no known environmental exposures other than wood dust

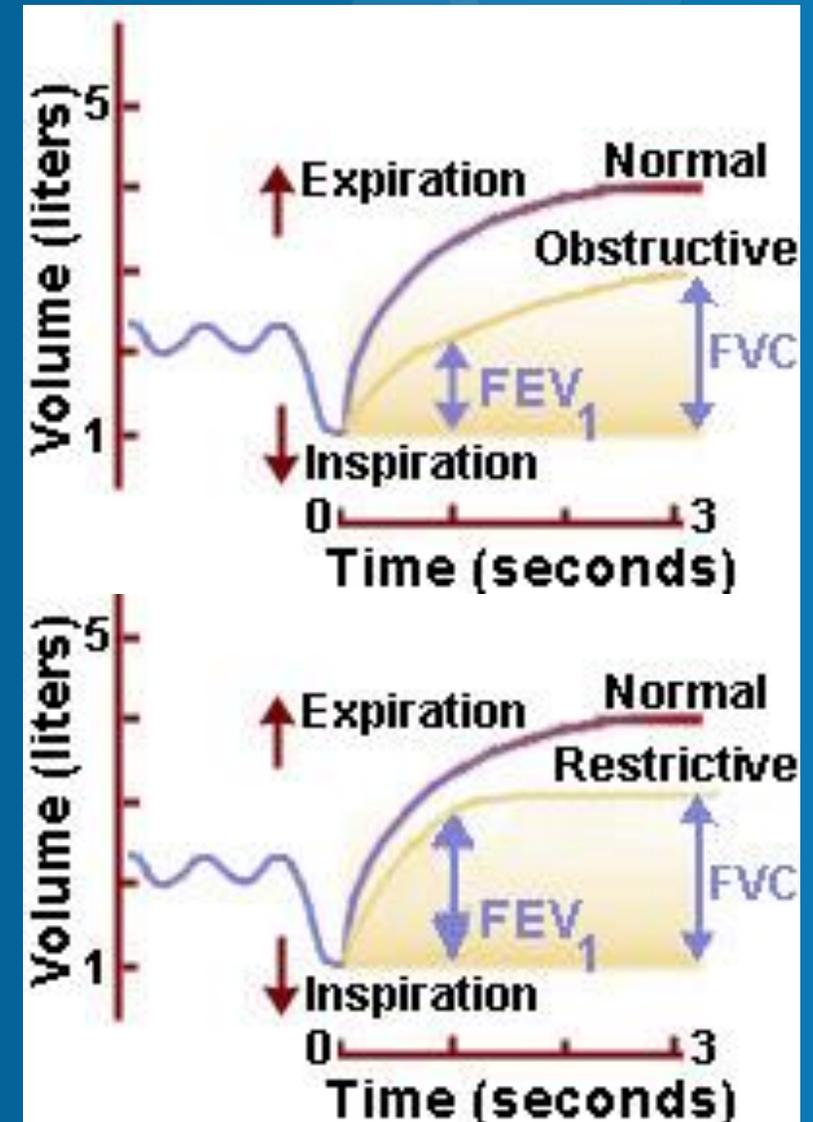
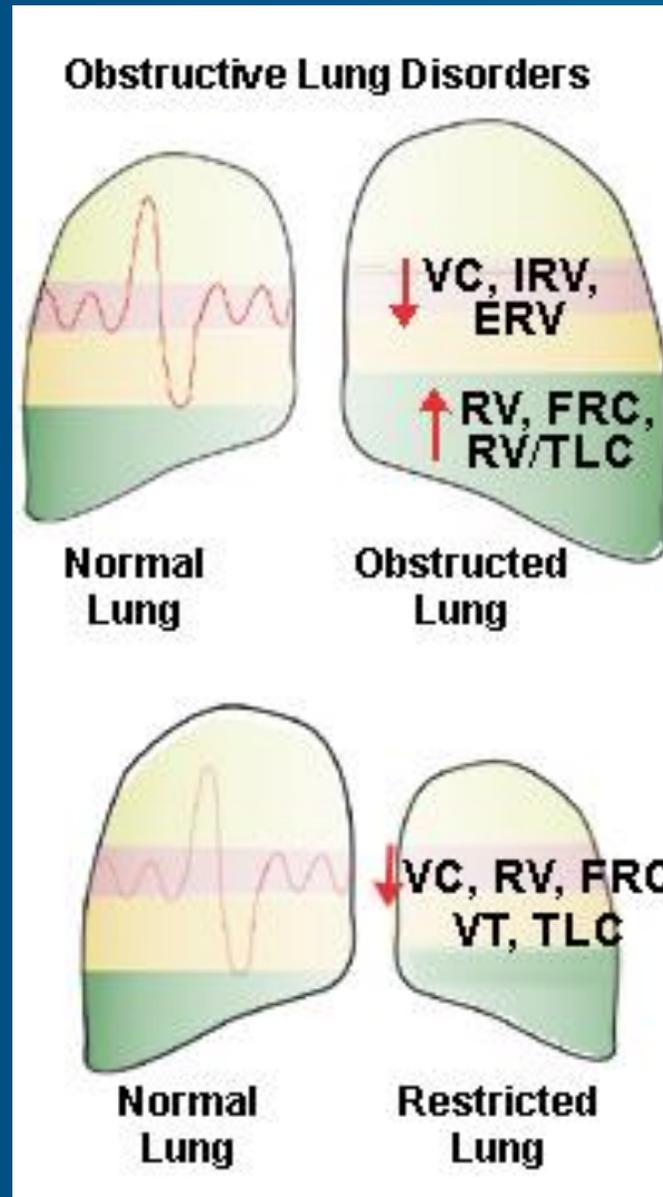
# Physical Examination

Alert, mildly breathless at rest, oriented  
BP 135/75 mm Hg, pulse rate is 88/min, and  
respiration rate is 24/min. Oxygen saturation is 88%  
breathing ambient air

- No JVD
- Cardiac examination is normal
- Pulmonary examination discloses inspiratory crackles at the lung bases bilaterally
- Digital clubbing is present

# Spirometry

Results: Increased FEV<sub>1</sub>, decreased FVC, normal FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC and decreased DLCO





# Question

Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- a) COPD
- b) CHF
- c) Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
- d) Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

# Answer

- “D”: Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
  - Characterized by progressive dyspnea, cough > 6 months and dry inspiratory crackles
  - Classic CT finding:
    - basal and peripheral disease with evidence of honeycomb changes
    - NO ground-glass opacities or nodules.

# Interstitial Lung Disease

- ILD are a diverse (>200) group of disorders
- Affect the interstitium, a potential space in the gas exchange area of the lungs between the capillaries and the alveoli
- The name is partly a misnomer
- These entities frequently involve, alveolar epithelium, alveolar space, pulmonary microvasculature, respiratory bronchioles and/or pleura
- Some call it diffuse parenchymal lung disease (DPLD)

# Epidemiology of ILD

Uncommon compared to other pulmonary problems

- 81/100,000 in males and 67/100,000 in females

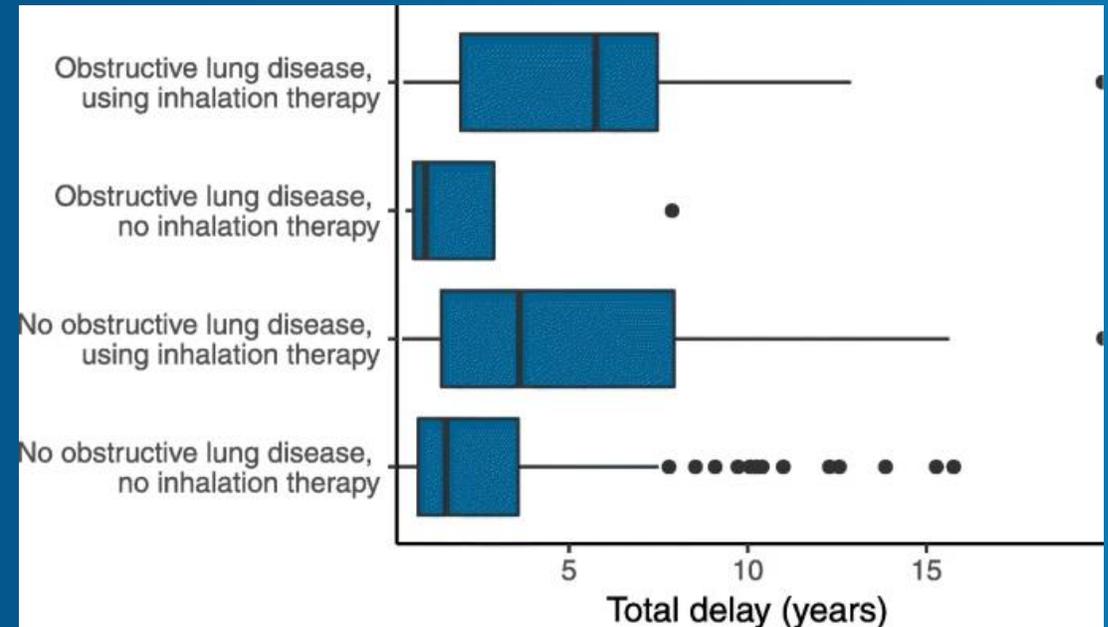
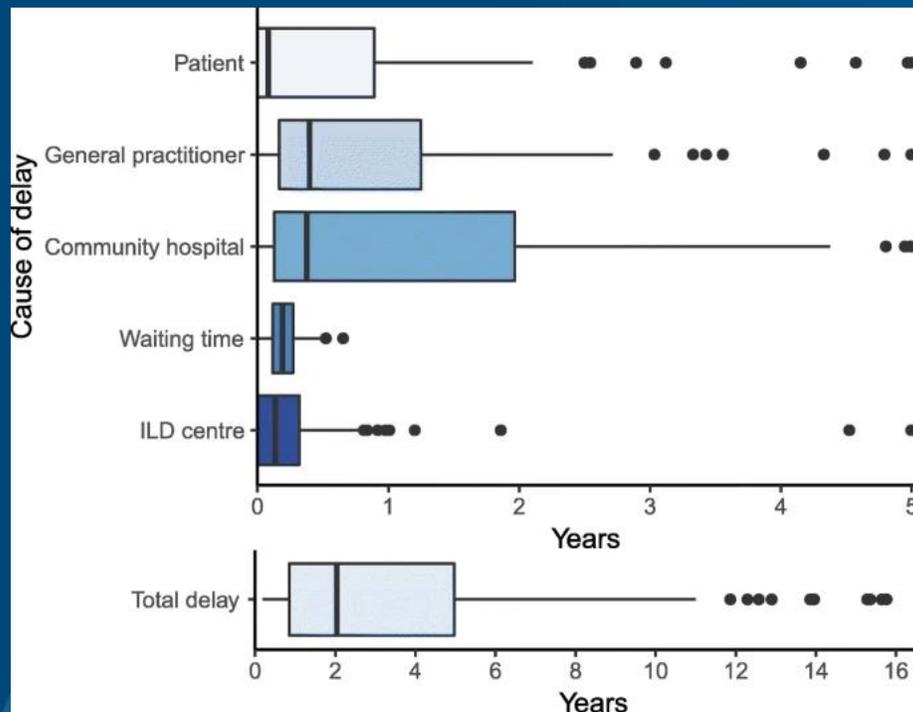
Often misdiagnosed as COPD, bronchitis, asthma or heart disease

- In a US survey of 1,583 patients with ILD, 54.6% reported a delay of > 1 year between onset of symptoms and IPF diagnosis

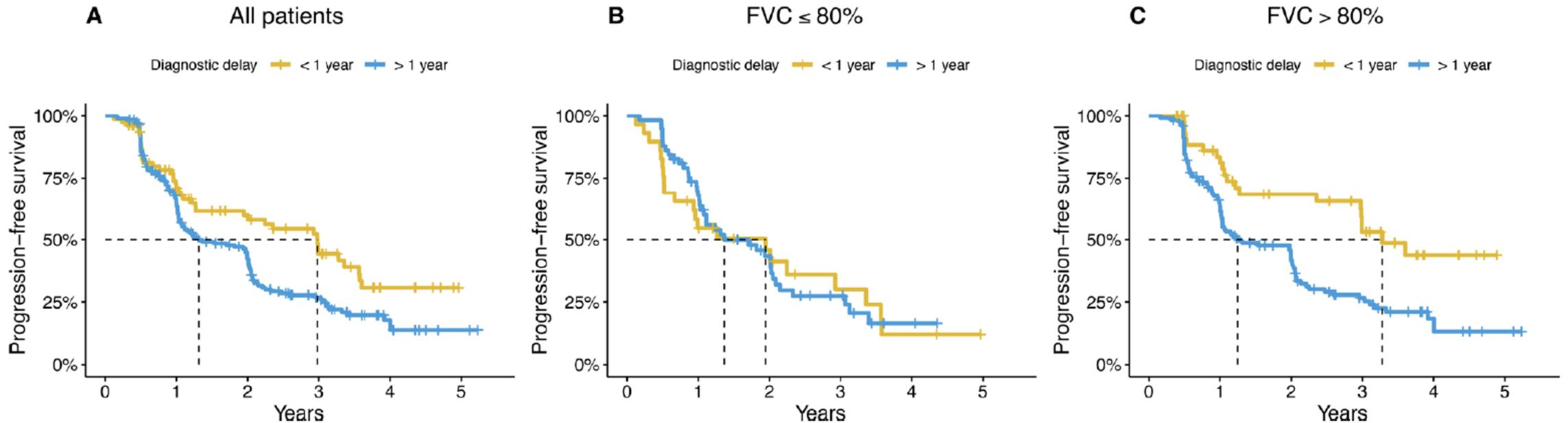
Some ILDs such as Sarcoidosis or LAM disproportionately affect women, especially women of color

# Interstitial Lung Disease

**Despite increased awareness of IPF, the diagnostic delay is still 2.1 years. Male sex, older age and treatment attempts for alternative diagnoses are risk factors for a delayed diagnosis of IPF**

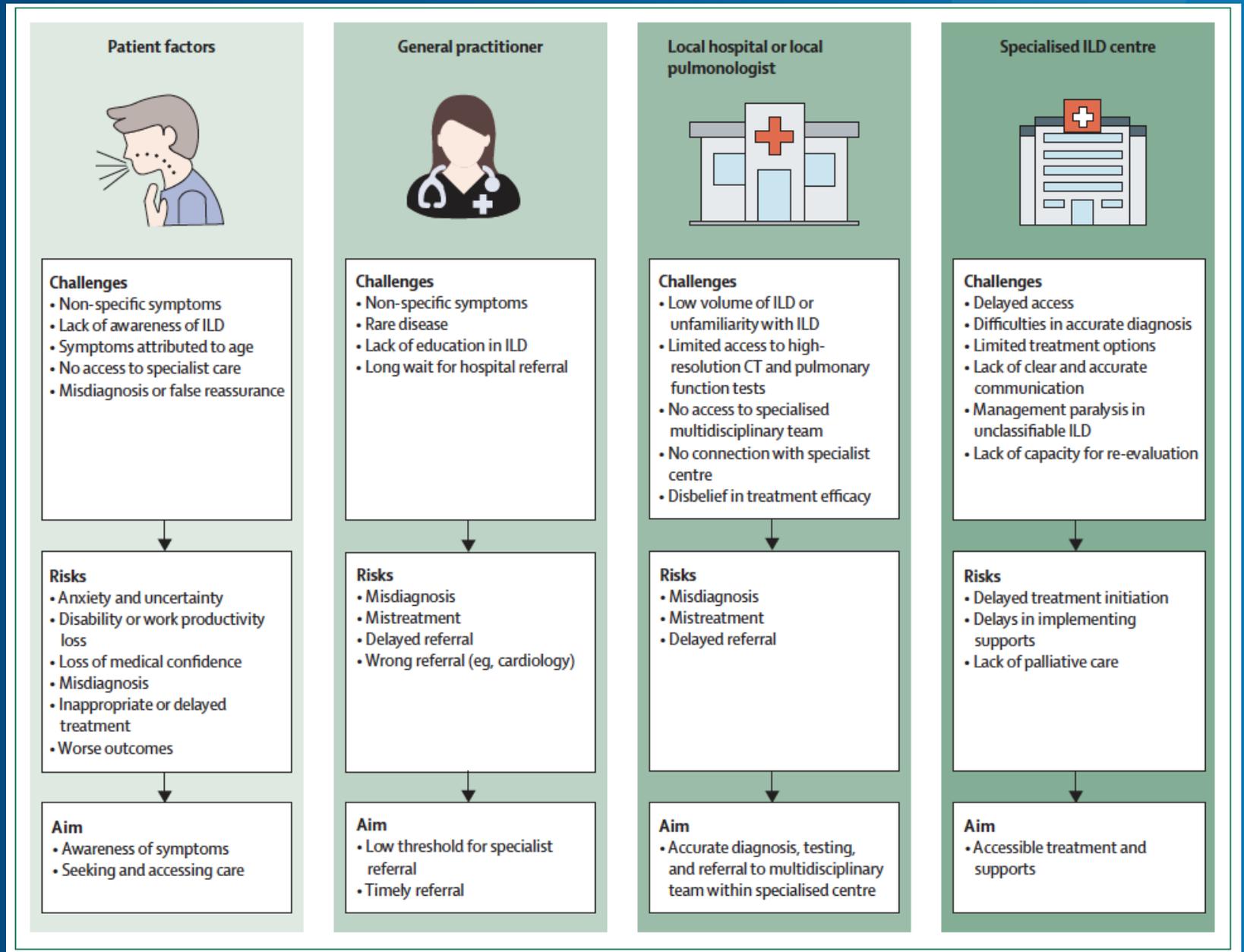


# Interstitial Lung Disease



**Figure 1** Progression-free survival in patients with a short (<1 year) or long (>1 year) diagnostic delay in the entire cohort (A) and stratified according to forced vital capacity (FVC) at the time of diagnosis  $\leq 80\%$  predicted (B) or  $> 80\%$  predicted (C).

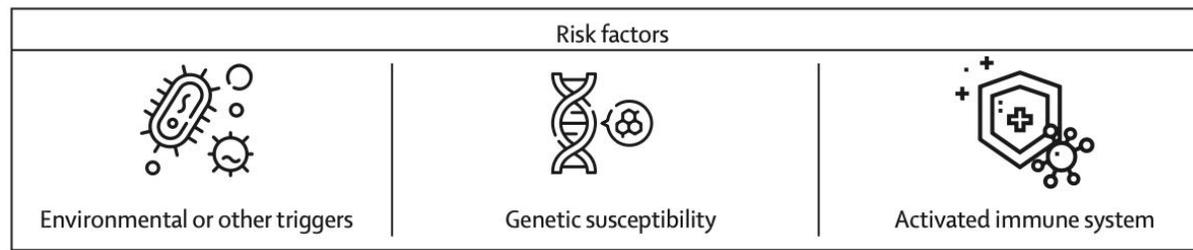
# Barriers to Diagnosis of ILD



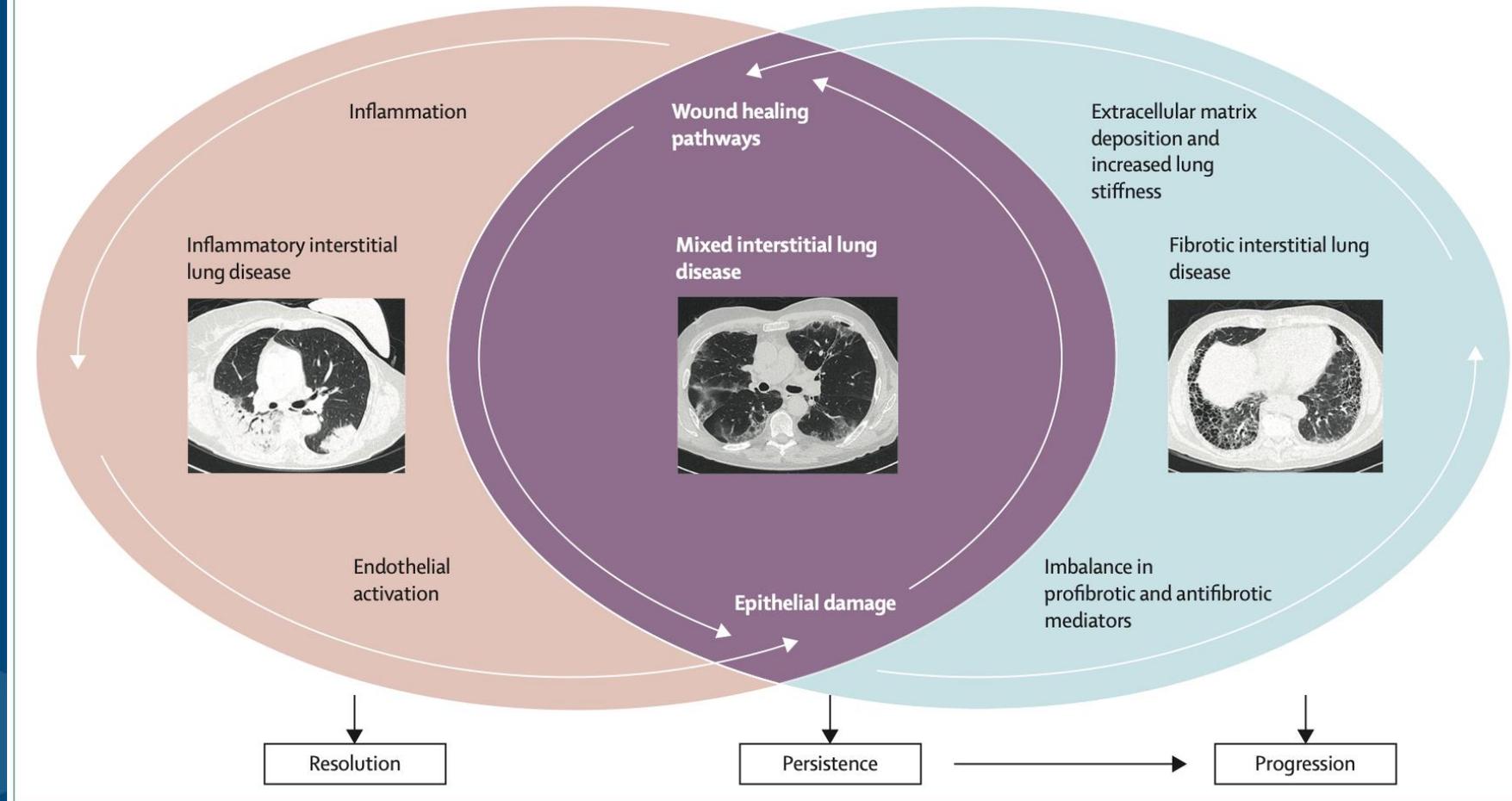
# Epidemiology of ILD: IPF or NOT IPF?

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) is the most common idiopathic interstitial pneumonia

- Terrible prognosis: 5 year survival rate of 20-40% is lower than many cancers
- Sporadic form most common, but familial forms may account for 5-20% of cases
- Prevalence of IPF in US is 14-27.9/100,000
- Incidence of IPF increases with age and is higher in men than women (10.7 vs. 7.4/100,000)



Initiation of interstitial lung disease

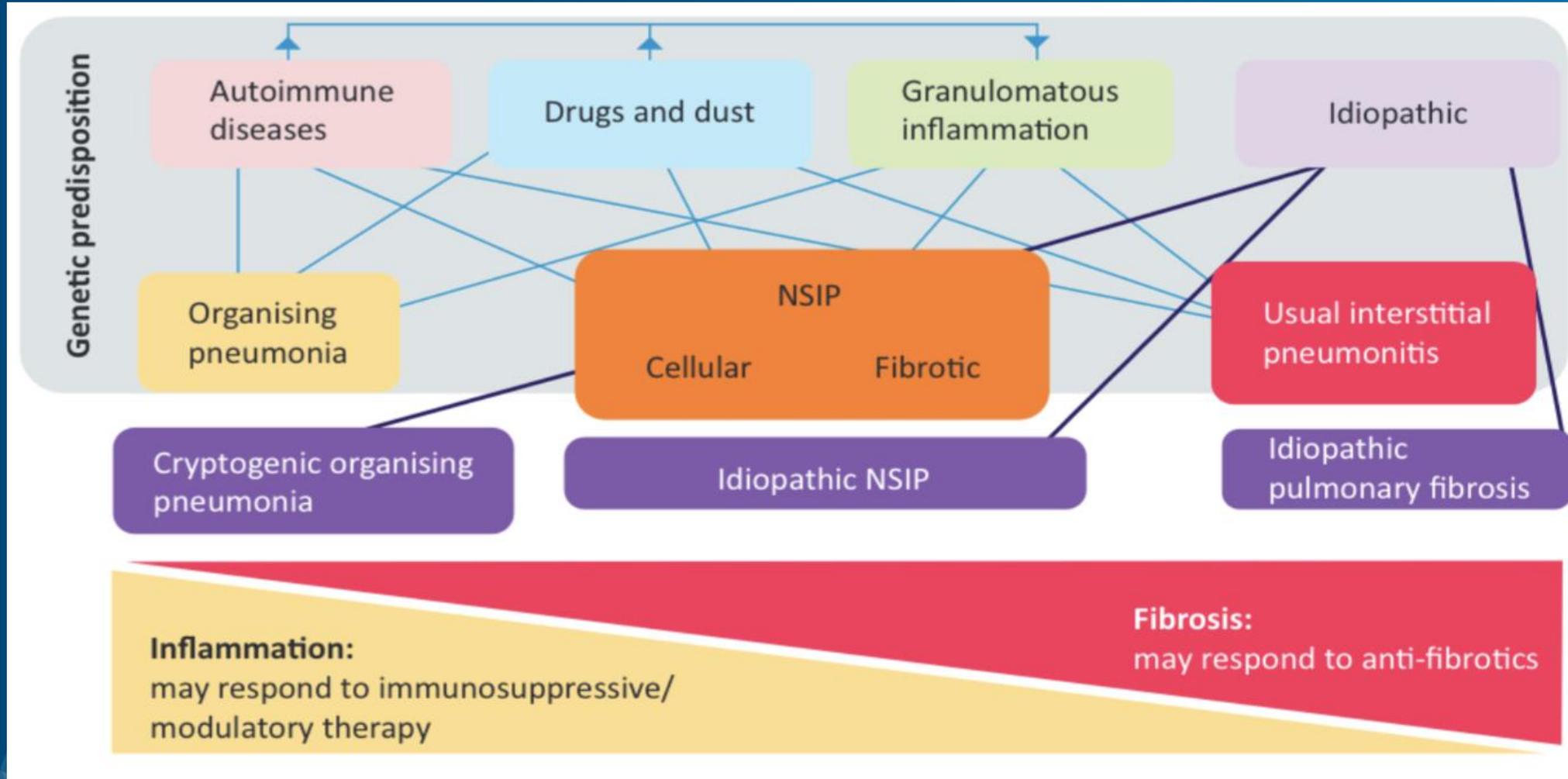


# Epidemiology of ILD

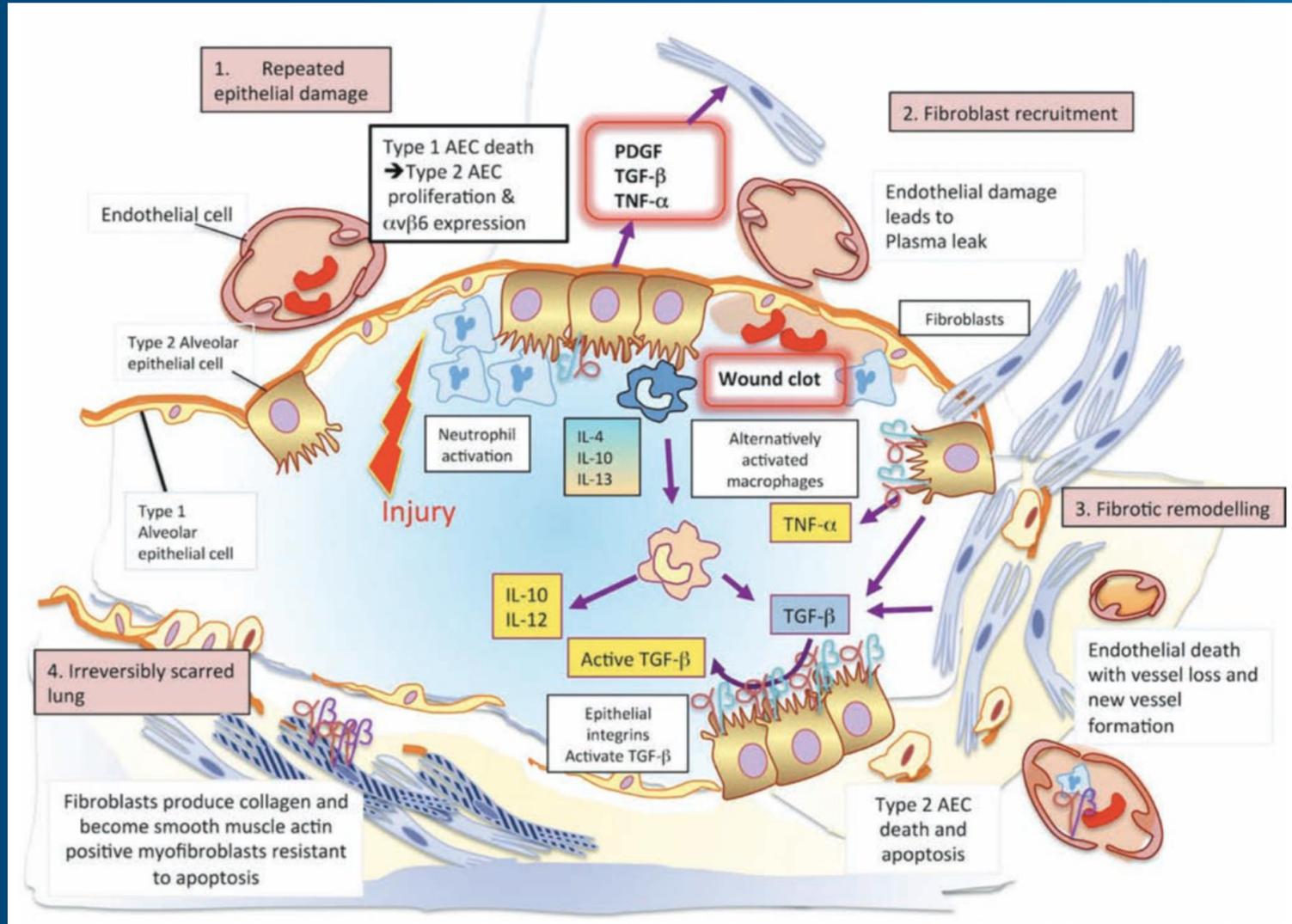
## Associations with ILD

- Environmental or occupational exposures
  - Asbestosis or silicosis
  - “Coal worker’s lung”
  - “Bird breeder’s lung”
  - “Wood worker’s lung”
- Drugs
  - Nitrofurantoin, phenytoin, bleomycin, busulfan, azathioprine, amiodarone
- Connective tissue disorders
- Radiation exposure
- Smoking/Vaping
- Genetics

# Pathophysiology of ILD



# Pathophysiology of ILD



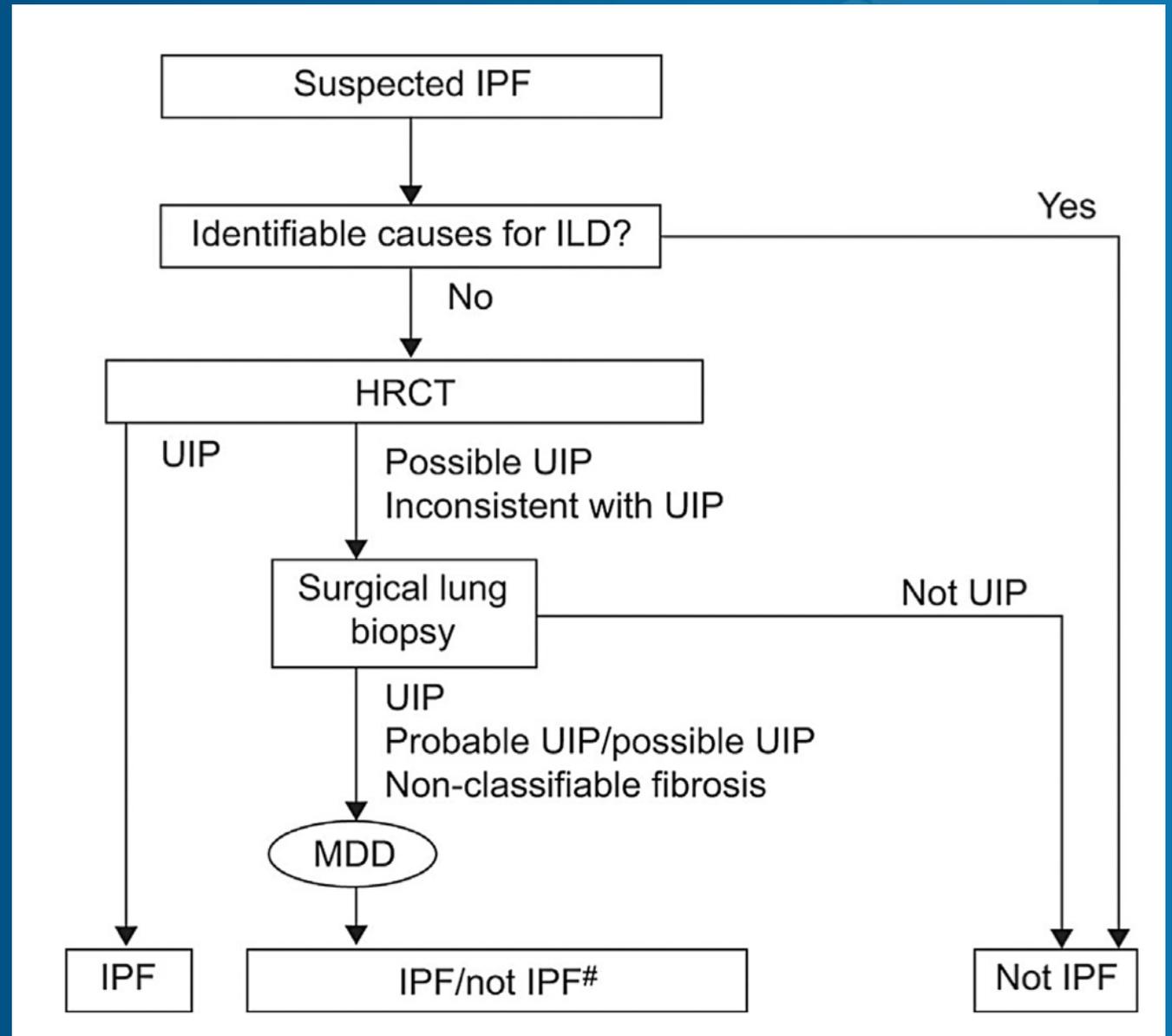
# ILD Diagnosis

## Major Diagnostic Challenge:

- NON-SPECIFICITY OF SYMPTOMS
- Think of ILD in middle-aged or elderly patients with breathless and/or cough out of proportion to contributory factors (i.e. obesity, COPD)
- Especially if they fail to benefit from regular therapy
- OR if their presumptive diagnosis is NOT fully supported by objective evidence
  - Low lung volumes in someone with “COPD”
  - Lack of obstructive pattern on PFTs

# ILD Diagnosis

- ILD is often suspected on the basis of an abnormal chest x-ray
- Review all previous films to assess the rate of change in disease activity
- Remember, chest radiograph is normal in 10% of patients with ILD (particularly those with HP)
- CXR is poorly predictive of histology
- REALLY THE FIRST STEP IN TRIAGE IS IPF OR SOMETHING ELSE
- High resolution CT scan is the **GOLD STANDARD**



Aiello, Marina, et al. "The earlier, the better: impact of early diagnosis on clinical outcome in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis." *Pulmonary Pharmacology & Therapeutics* 44 (2017): 7-15.

# ILD Diagnosis

**Table 2**

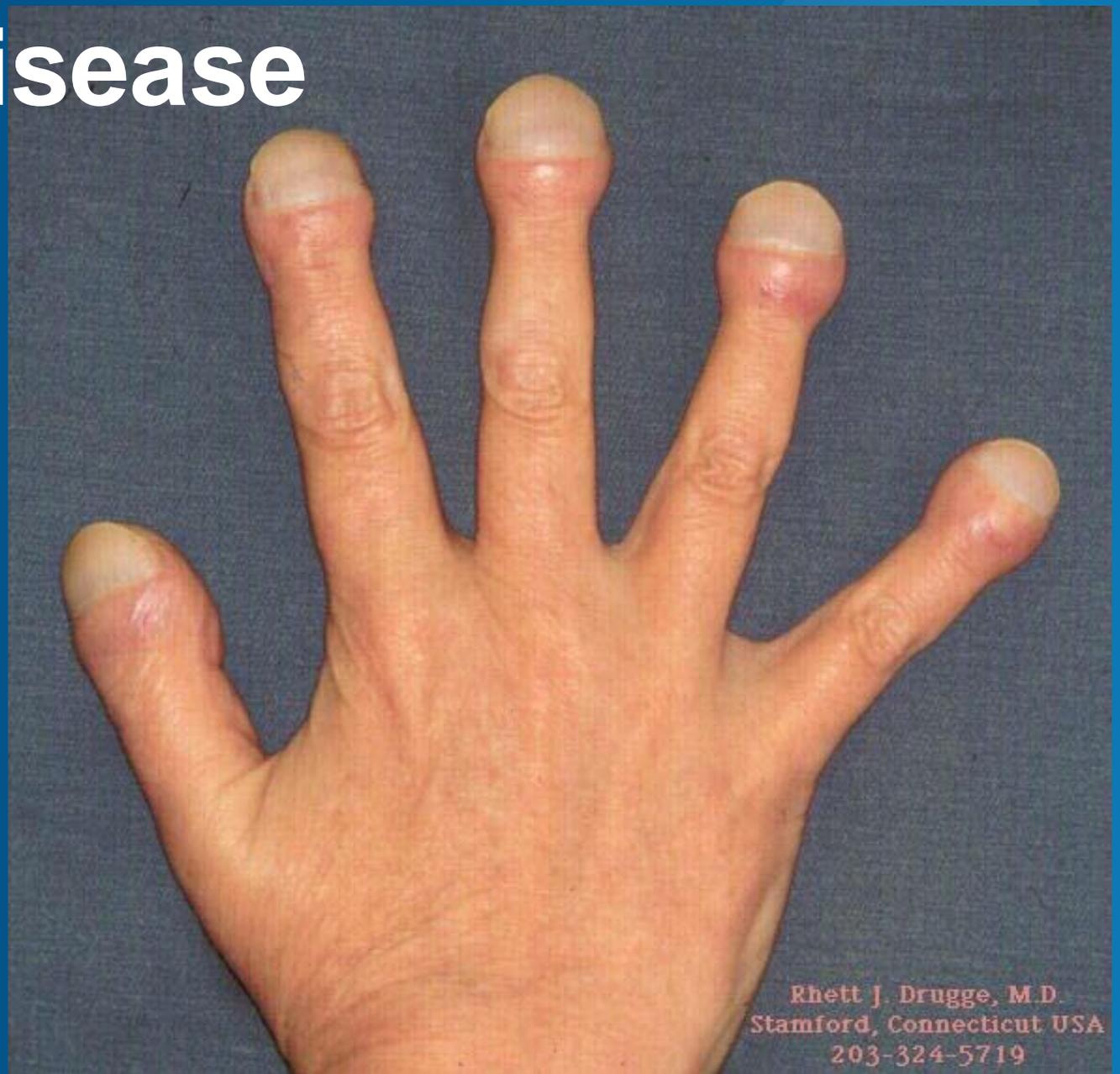
Histological criteria for usual interstitial pneumonia (UIP) pattern in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF).

UIP Pattern (All Four Criteria)	Probable UIP Pattern	Possible UIP Pattern (All Three Criteria)	Not UIP Pattern (Any of the Six Criteria)
Evidence of marked fibrosis/ architectural distortion, ± honeycombing in a predominantly subpleural/paraseptal distribution	Evidence of marked fibrosis/ architectural distortion, ± honeycombing	Patchy or diffuse involvement of lung parenchyma by fibrosis, with or without interstitial inflammation	Hyaline membranes <sup>a</sup>
Presence of patchy involvement of lung parenchyma by fibrosis	Absence of either patchy involvement or fibroblastic foci, but not both	Absence of other criteria for UIP (see UIP PATTERN column)	Organizing pneumonia <sup>a,b</sup>
Presence of fibroblast foci	Absence of features against a diagnosis of UIP suggesting an alternate diagnosis (see fourth column) OR	Absence of features against a diagnosis of UIP suggesting an alternate diagnosis (see fourth column)	Granulomas <sup>b</sup>
Absence of features against a diagnosis of UIP suggesting an alternate diagnosis (see fourth column)	Honeycomb changes only <sup>c</sup>		Marked interstitial inflammatory cell infiltrate away from honeycombing Predominant airway centred changes Other features suggestive of an alternate diagnosis

# Interstitial Lung Disease

## Clinical Manifestations

- Progressive dyspnea with exertion or a persistent dry cough
- Physical exam has little diagnostic specificity
  - Presence or absence of diffuse crackles adds little
  - Clubbing is nonspecific
  - Cyanosis and cor pulmonale are late manifestations
  - Extra thoracic findings are directive but not diagnostic



# Imaging: Patterns helpful in differential: Chest Xray



**Reticular**  
(Too many lines)

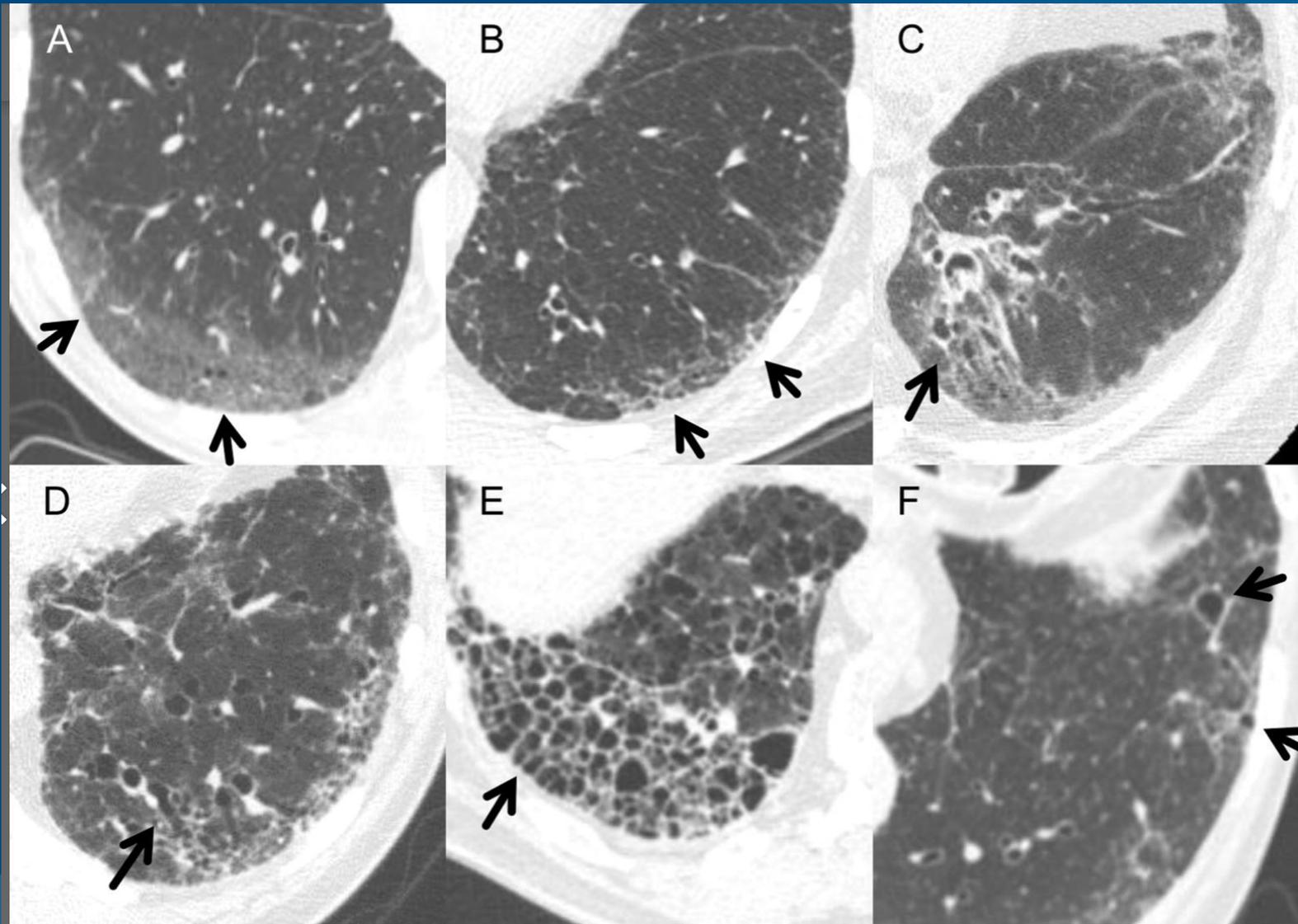


**Nodular**  
(Too many dots)



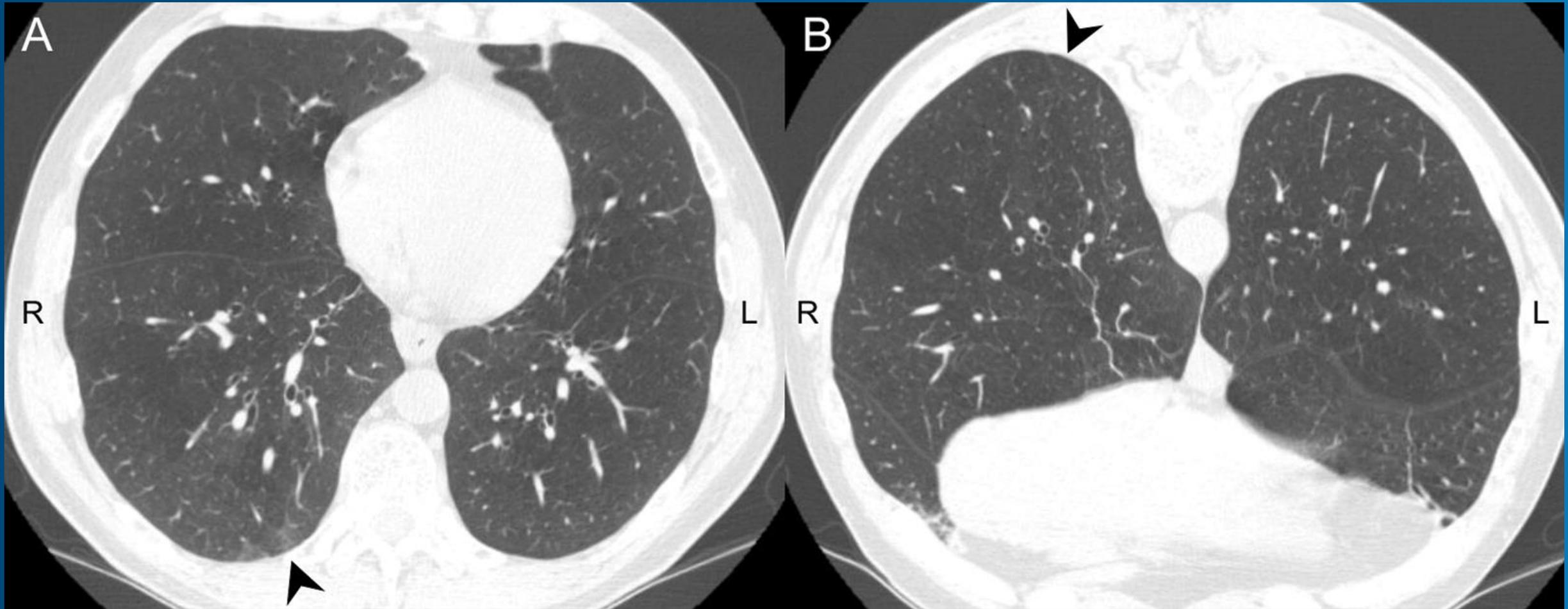
**Reticulonodular**  
(Too many lines and dots)

# High Resolution CT Chest



- A. Ground-glass abnormality
- B. Reticular abnormality with ground-glass opacity (arrows) is seen in subpleural area
- C. Lung distortion is suggested by volume loss and displacement of bronchi and vessels toward medial side (arrow). Distortion accompanies ground-glass abnormality and traction bronchiectasis.
- D. Traction bronchiectasis
- E. Honeycombing
- F. Nonemphysematous cysts

# Supine versus Prone



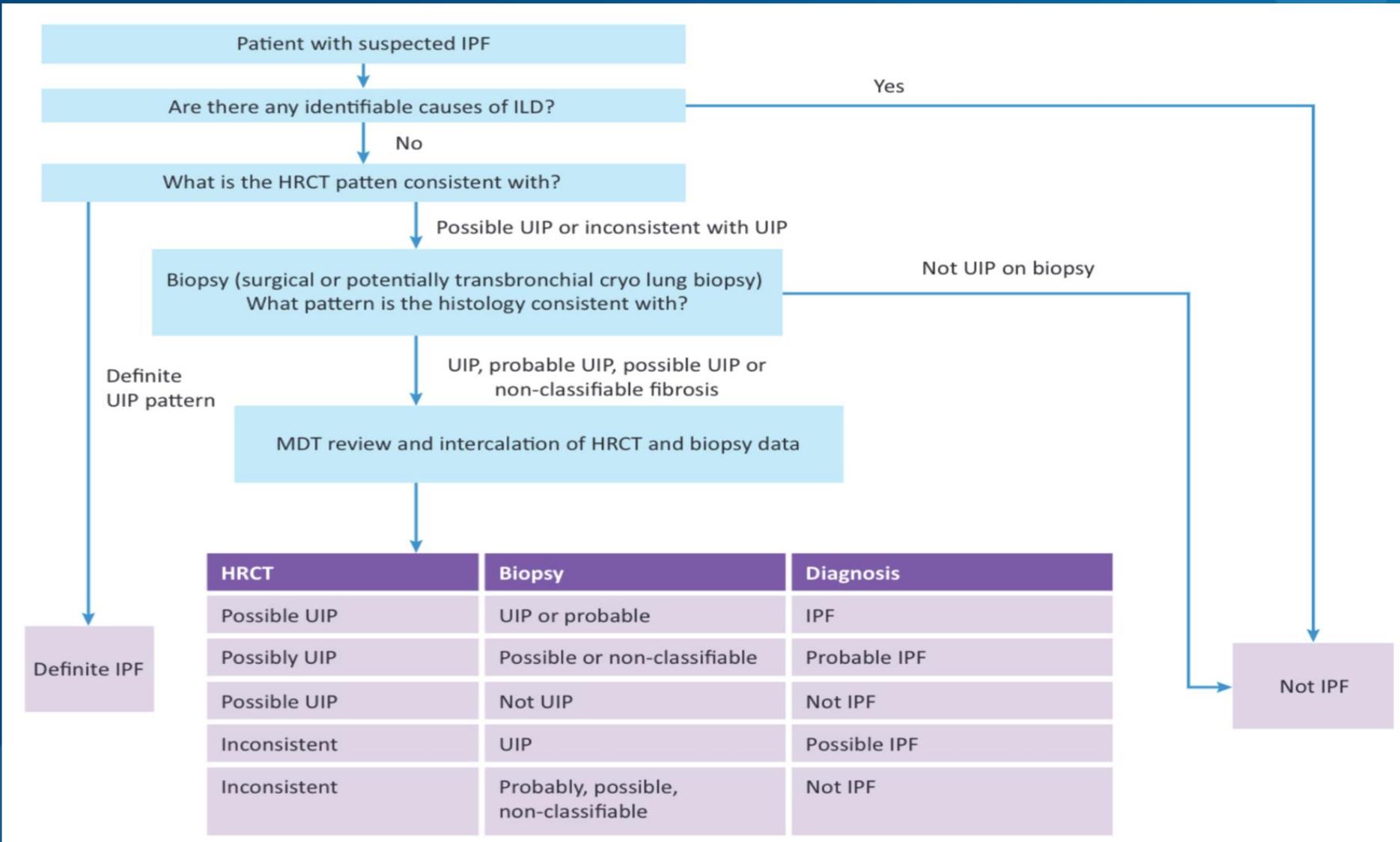
# Labs

- Peripheral eosinophilia > 10%
  - Chung-Strauss syndrome
  - Acute/Chronic eosinophilic pneumonia
- Abnormal renal function:
  - Pulmonary-renal syndromes ANCA/Anti-GBM
- Connective tissue disease findings:
  - RF/ANA/Anti-DNA
- Precipitating antibodies to specific antigens
  - Hypersensitivity pneumonitis

**Table 4 Clues for specific diagnoses from blood and urine testing**

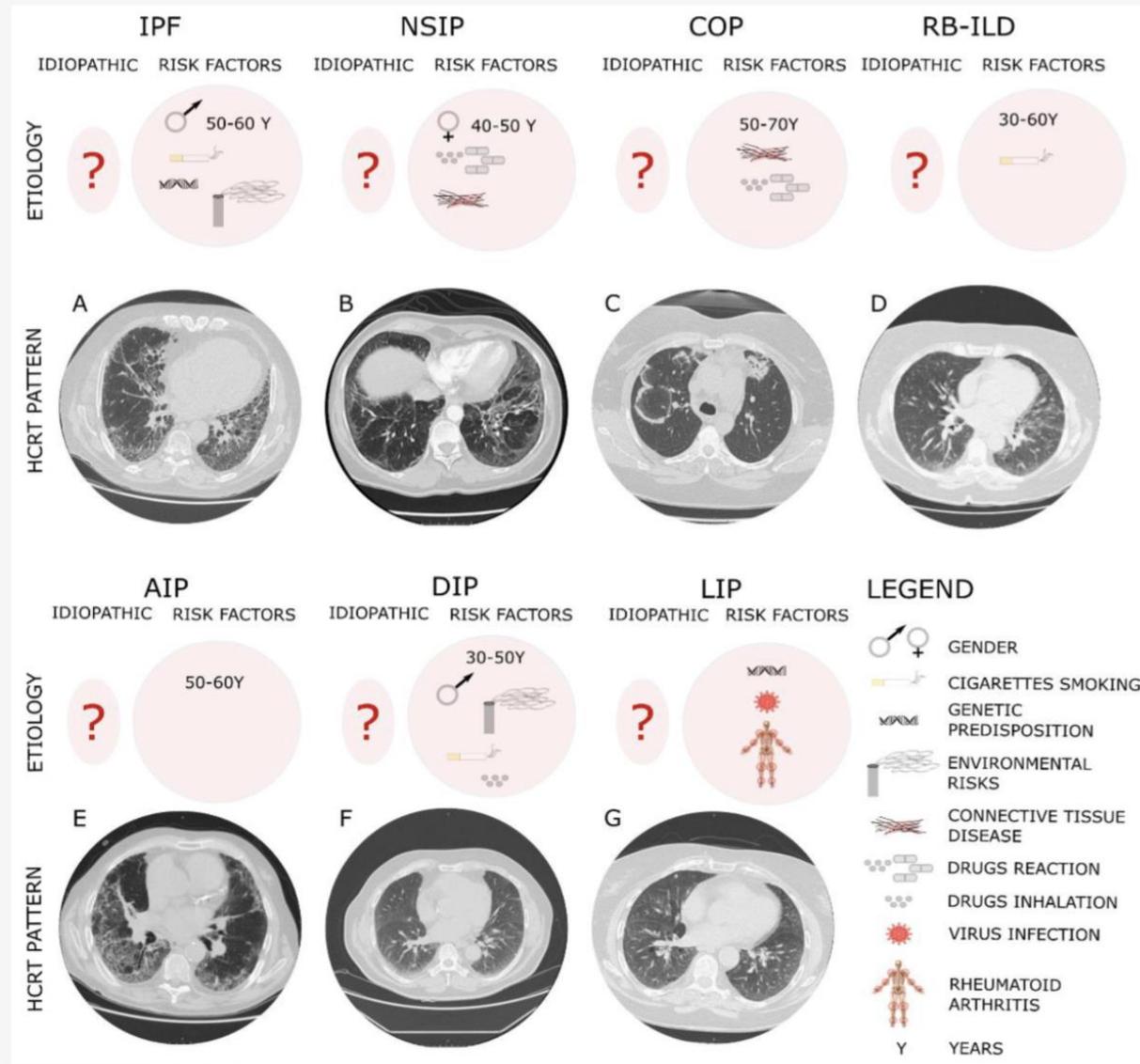
Laboratory test	Abnormal result	Suggested disorder
CBC	Microcytic anemia	Occult pulmonary hemorrhage
	Normocytic anemia	CTD, chronic disease
	Leukocytosis	Infection, hematologic malignancy
	Eosinophilia	Eosinophilic pneumonia, drug toxicity
	Thrombocytopenia	CTD, sarcoidosis
Calcium	Hypercalcemia	Sarcoidosis
Creatinine	↑	CTD, pulmonary-renal syndrome, sarcoidosis; amyloidosis
Liver function	↑ GGT, ALT, AST	Sarcoidosis, amyloidosis, CTD (polymyositis)
Urine	Abnormal sediment with RBC casts and/or dysmorphic RBCs	Vasculitis (CTD, PAG, GPS, MPA)
Muscle enzymes	↑ Increased CK, aldolase	PM, DM-PM
Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE)	↑	Sarcoidosis (non-specific; can be increased in other ILD)
Lymphocyte proliferation	Stimulated by beryllium	CBD
Serum antibodies	↓ Quantitative immunoglobulins	Immunodeficiency (CVID)
	↑ ANA, RF, anti-CCP	CTD, RA
	↑ C-ANCA	PAG
	↑ P-ANCA	CTD, vasculitis
	↑ anti-GBM	GPS
	Positive specific precipitin	Supportive of HP
	↑ anti-Jo-1 or other anti-synthetase autoantibodies	PM, DM-PM
	↑ SS-A, SS-B	Sjögren's syndrome

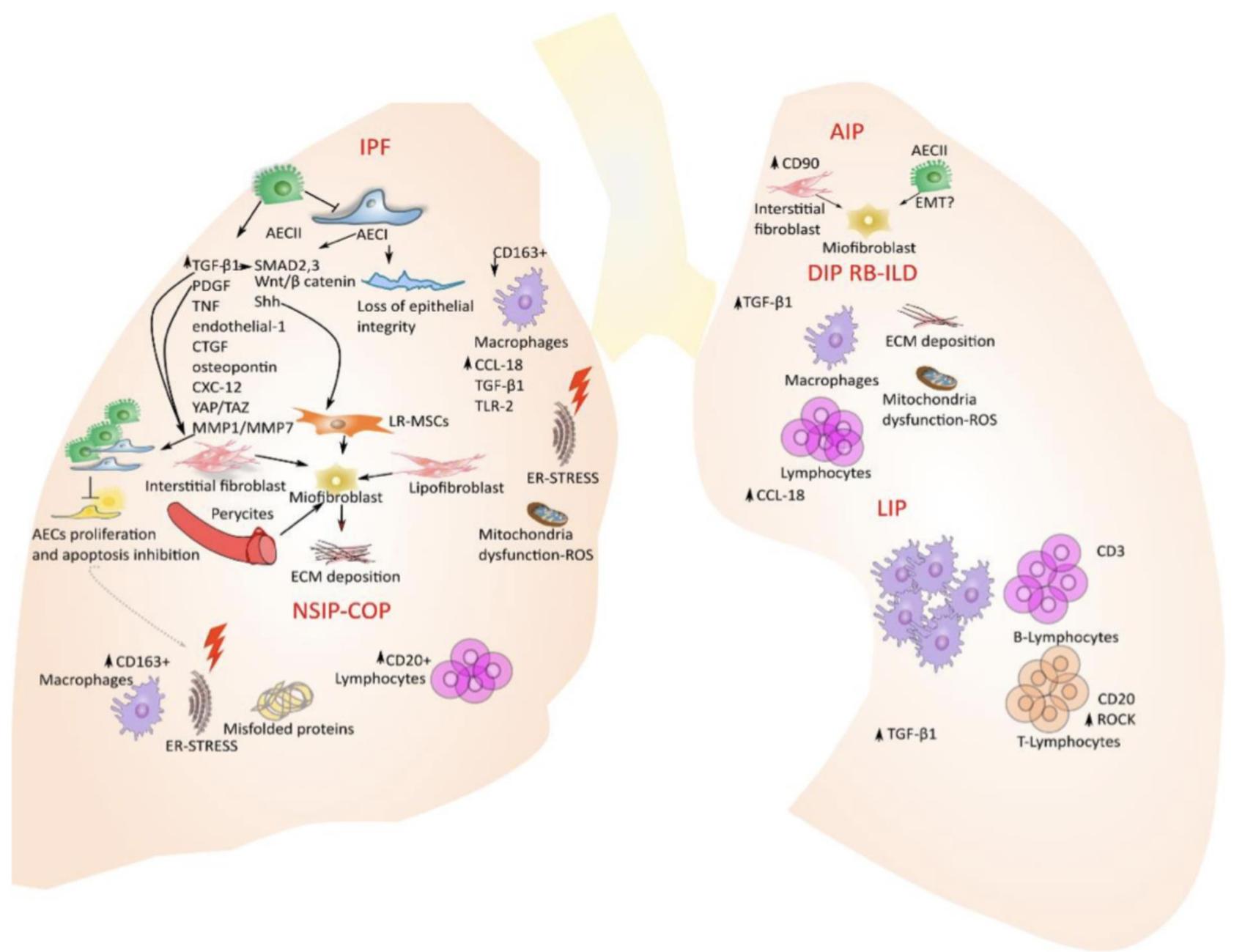
# Diagnosis of IPF



# Diagnosis of IPF

**Figure 1.** The diagnostic and etiologic characteristic of different IIPs.





Samarelli, Anna Valeria, et al. "Fibrotic idiopathic interstitial lung disease: The molecular and cellular key players." *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* 22.16 (2021): 8952.

# ILD Genetics

**TABLE 1** Key findings in publications on genetics in interstitial lung disease.

ILD	Gene	Finding	Method	Study
IPF	<i>MUC5B, TERC, DSP, TERT, and RTEL1</i>	Variants significantly associated with IPF risk	WGS	4
IPF	<i>PARN</i>	Heterozygous mutation associated with IPF risk	Whole exome sequencing	11
IPF	Introns of <i>KNL1, NPRL3, STMN3</i> and <i>RTEL1</i> . Intergenic variant in 10q25.1	Novel variants associated with IPF risk	GWAS meta-analysis	6
IPF	<i>PKN2</i>	Variant in antisense RNA associated with FVC decline	GWAS meta-analysis	7
IPF	<i>PCSK6</i>	Variant associated with reduced survival	GWAS	8
IPF and FPF	Rare telomere-related variants	Associated with disease progression and reduced survival	WGS	10
IPF and FPF	<i>KIF15</i>	Rare and common variants link nontelomerase pathway of cell proliferation with IPF susceptibility	Gene burden analysis	12
FHP	<i>MUC5B, IVD, TERC</i> and <i>DSP</i>	Common IPF variants significantly associated with fibrotic HP	Candidate SNP genotyping	5
CHP	<i>TOLLIP</i>	Functional changes associated with rapid FVC decline	Candidate SNP genotyping	13
ILA	Mean telomere length	Associated with interstitial lung abnormalities	qPCR and Southern blot analysis	9

Abbreviations: CHP, chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis; FHP, fibrotic hypersensitivity pneumonitis; FPF, familial pulmonary fibrosis; FVC, forced vital capacity; GWAS, genome wide association studies; IPF, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; qPCR, quantitative polymerase chain reaction; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; WGS, whole genome sequencing.

# ILD Biomarkers

TABLE 2. Biomarkers and their associations in ILD.

ILD	Marker	Association	Study
Non-CTD fibrotic ILDs	RF and anti-CCP	Not associated with improved outcomes or treatment response	37
IPF	OPN, MMP7, ICAM1, POSTN	Progression and mortality	38
IPF	MMP-7	Worse mortality and disease progression	39
IPF	ccf-dsDNA	Rapid progression of disease. Associated with amino acid, energy and lipid metabolism in IPF	40
IPF	CYFRA 21-1	Localizes to hyperplastic epithelium. Higher in IPF. Predictive of progression and mortality	41
IPF	FUT3	Lower risk of developing IPF	42
PFILD	PLAUR, ITGB6, SPON1, HGF, PRSS8, KRT19 and 11 others	Associated with PFILD	43

Abbreviations: CTD: connective tissue disease; ILD, interstitial lung disease; IPF, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; PFILD, progressive fibrosing ILD.

# ILD Management

## ABCDE of interstitial lung disease care

### Assess

Patients' needs and values  
Patients as partner in care  
Include caregivers

### Backing

Education  
Self management  
• Dietary support  
Support groups  
Patient advocacy groups  
Pulmonary rehabilitation  
Prevention  
• Stop smoking  
• Vaccination  
Discuss and trial options

### Comfort-care, comorbidities

Comfort-care  
• Dyspnoea  
• Cough  
• Fatigue  
• Depression and anxiety  
Other palliative options  
Comorbidities  
• Cardiovascular  
• Obstructive sleep apnoea  
• Lung cancer  
• Emphysema  
• Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

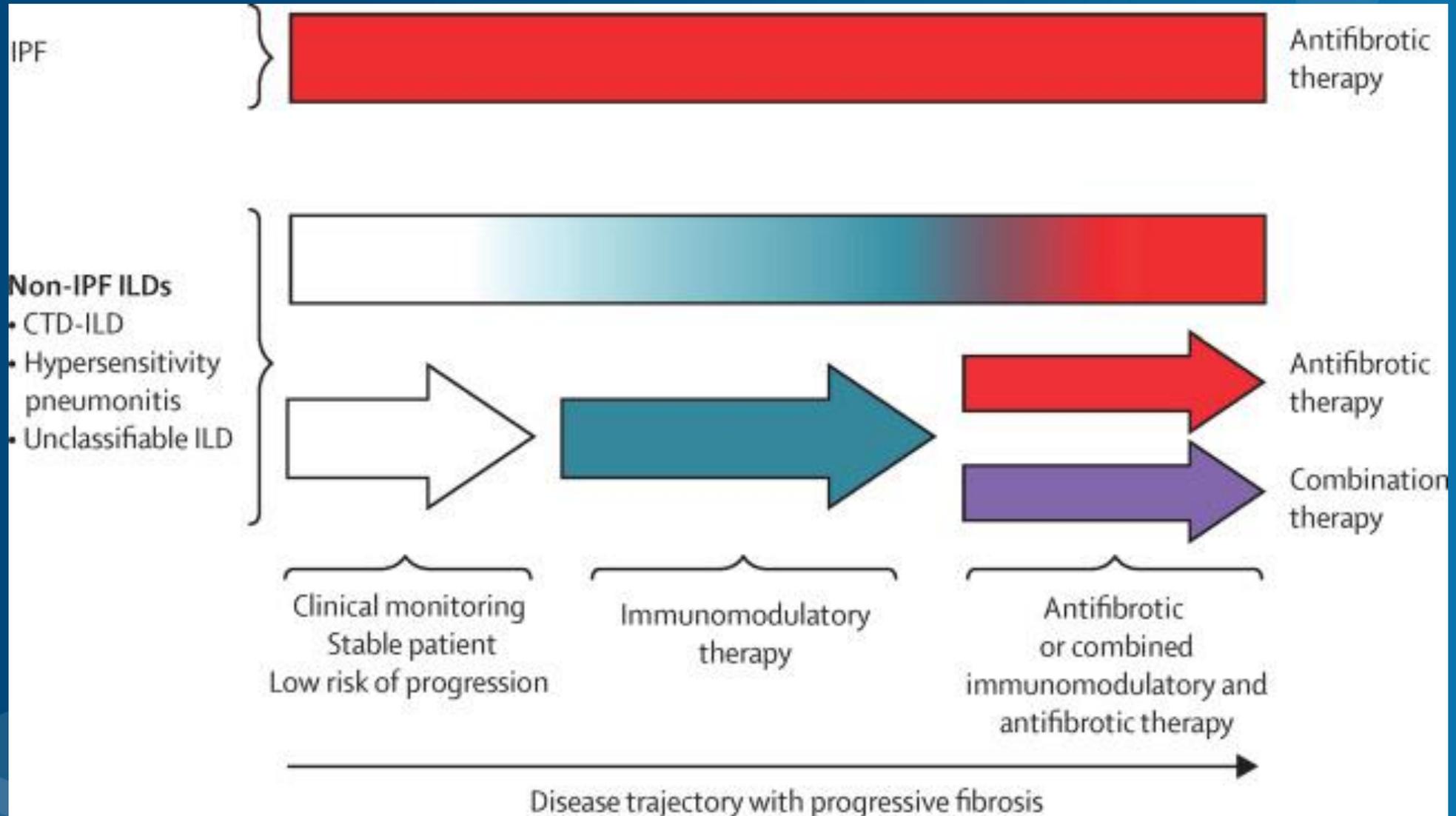
### Disease-modifying treatment

Antifibrotic drugs\*  
• Pirfenidone  
• Nintedanib  
Immunomodulatory therapies†  
Lung transplantation (if patient is eligible)

### End-of-life care

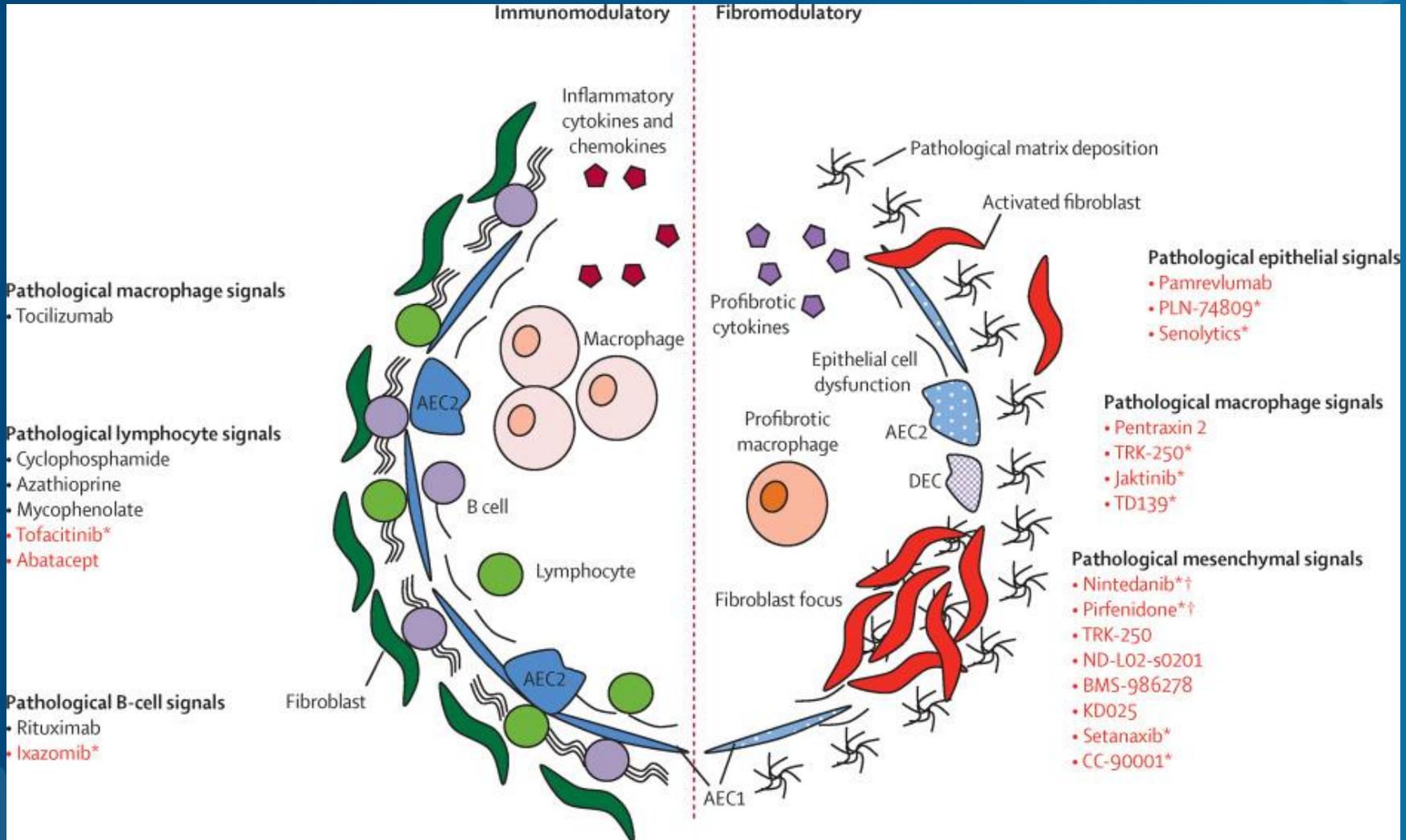
Timing of discussion  
Discuss  
• Fears  
• Practical needs  
• Palliative options  
• Preferred place of dying  
• Preferred way of dying  
Discuss treatment limits  
• About resuscitation  
• About ventilatory support

# ILD Treatment



Johansson, Kerri A., et al. "Treatment of fibrotic interstitial lung disease: current approaches and future directions." *The Lancet* 398.10309 (2021): 1450-1460.

# ILD Treatment

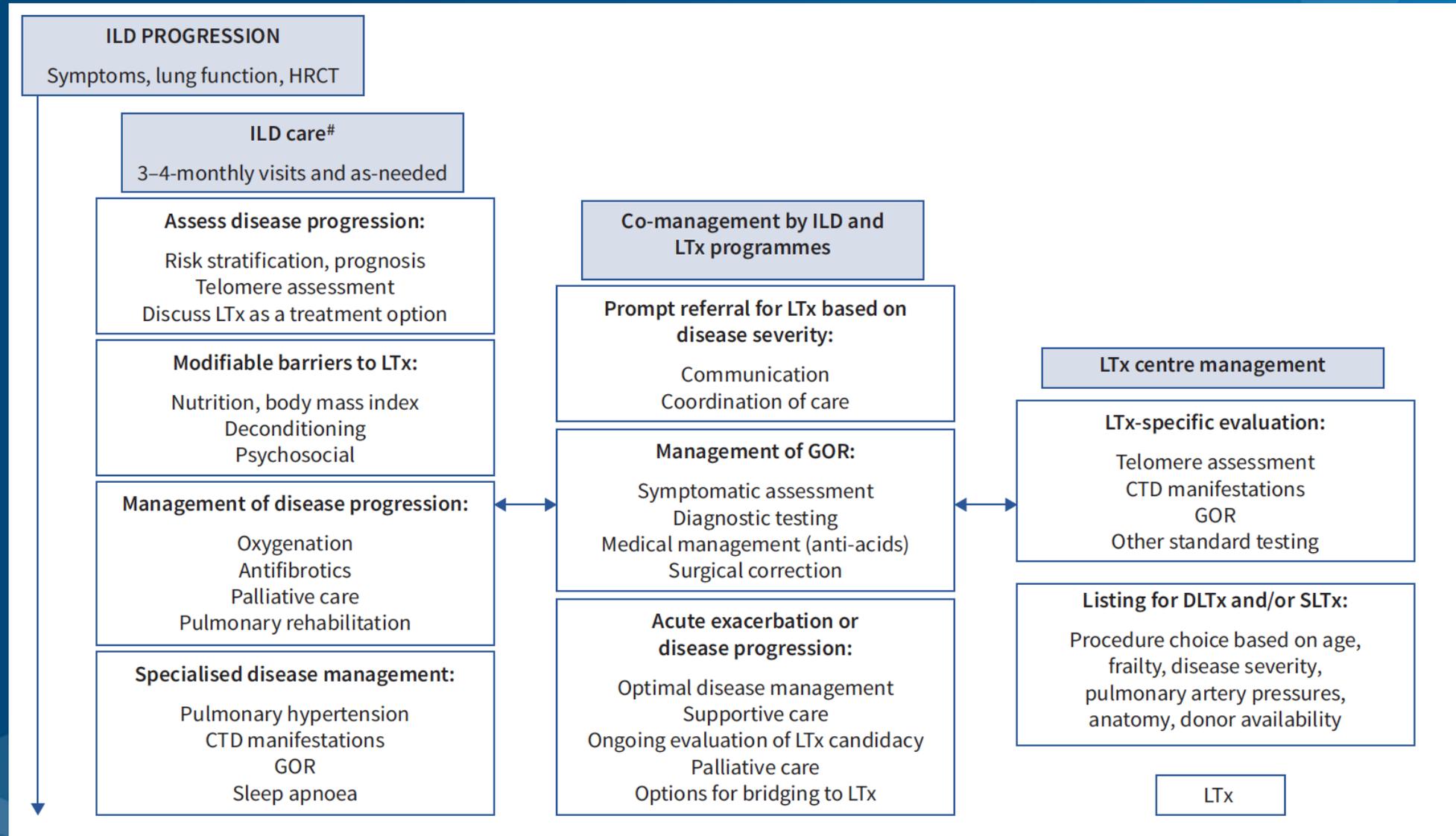


Johansson, Kerri A., et al. "Treatment of fibrotic interstitial lung disease: current approaches and future directions." *The Lancet* 398.10309 (2021): 1450-1460.

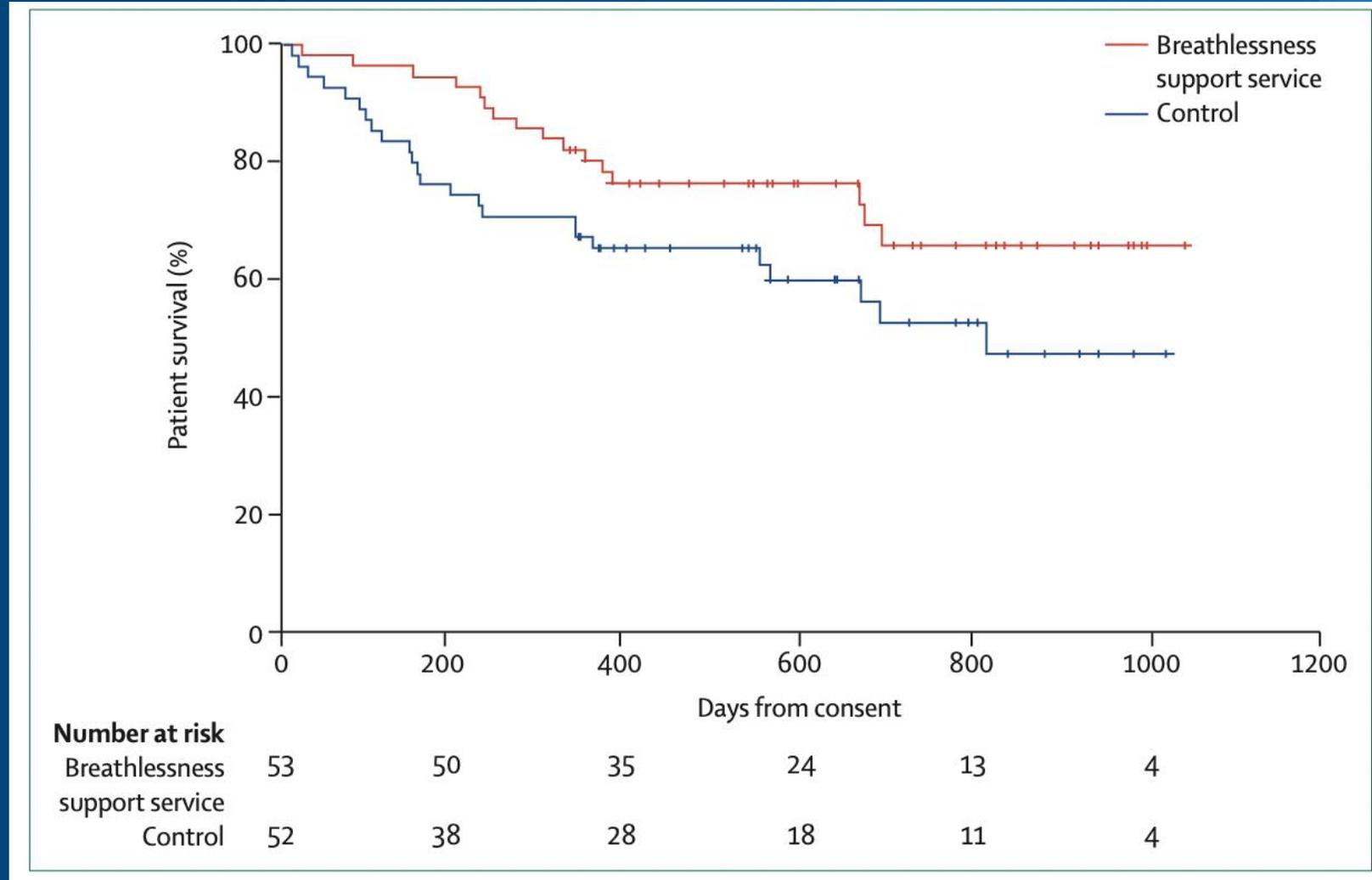
# Criteria for referral and listing for lung transplantation in patients with interstitial lung disease (ILD)

Timing of Transplant Referral	Timing of Transplant Listing
<i>Histopathological UIP</i>	<i>Hospitalization for respiratory decline, pneumothorax or acute exacerbation</i>
<i>Radiographic probable or definite UIP pattern</i>	<i>Desaturation to &lt;88% on 6MWT or &gt;50 m decline in 6MWD over 6 months</i>
<i>FVC &lt;80% or DLCO &lt;40% pred</i>	<i>Pulmonary hypertension on right heart catheterization or echocardiography</i>
<i>Relative decline in pulmonary function over the past 2 years: FVC <math>\geq</math>10% or DLCO <math>\geq</math>15% or FVC <math>\geq</math>5% with symptomatic or radiographic progression</i>	<i>Absolute decline in pulmonary function over the past 6 months despite appropriate treatment: FVC &gt;10% or DLCO &gt;10% or FVC &gt;5% with radiographic progression</i>
<i>Any resting or exertional oxygen requirement</i>	
<i>For inflammatory ILDs, disease progression despite treatment</i>	Kapnadak, Siddhartha G., and Ganesh Raghu. "Lung transplantation for interstitial lung disease." <i>European Respiratory Review</i> 30.161 (2021).

# Lung transplantation in ILD



# ILD Palliative Care



# SOME FLAVORS OF ILD

# ILD and Connective Tissue Disease

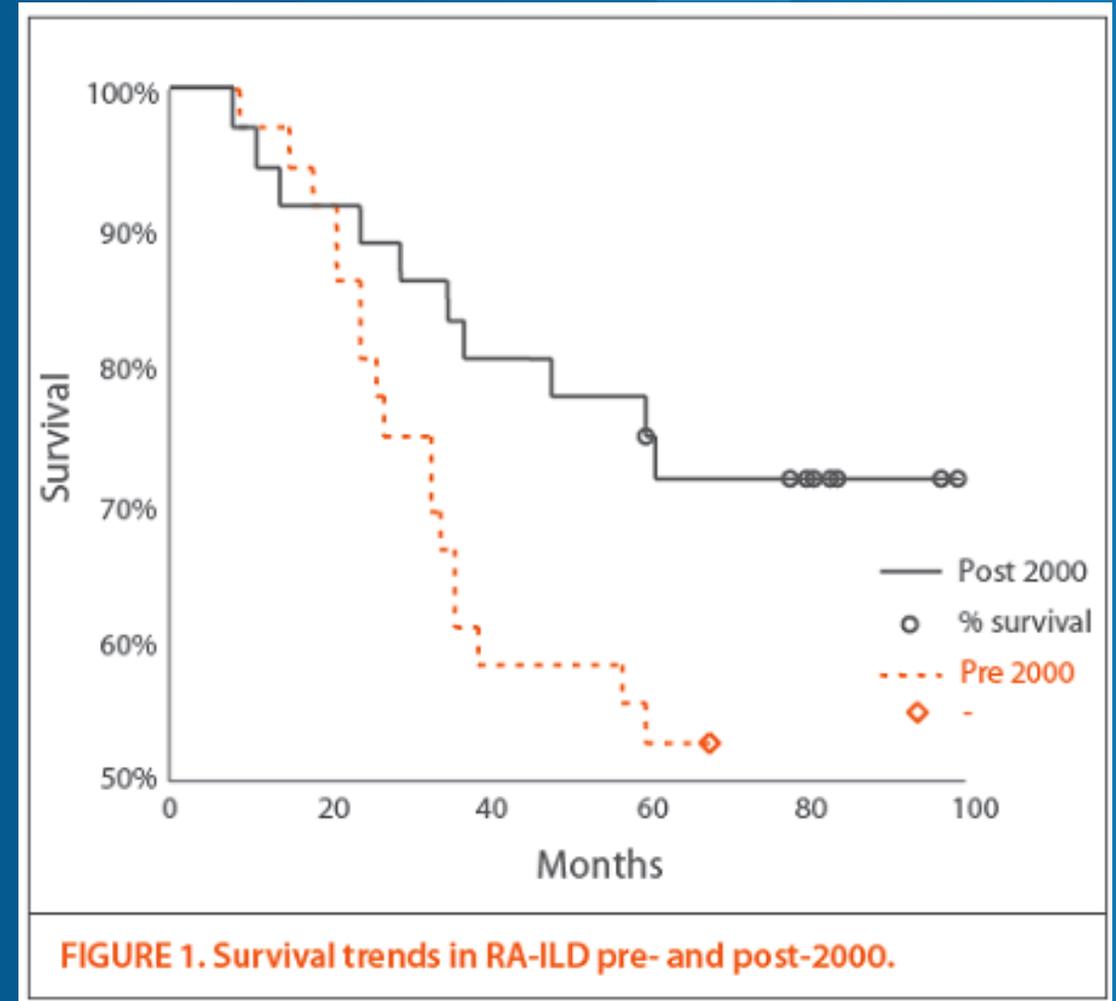
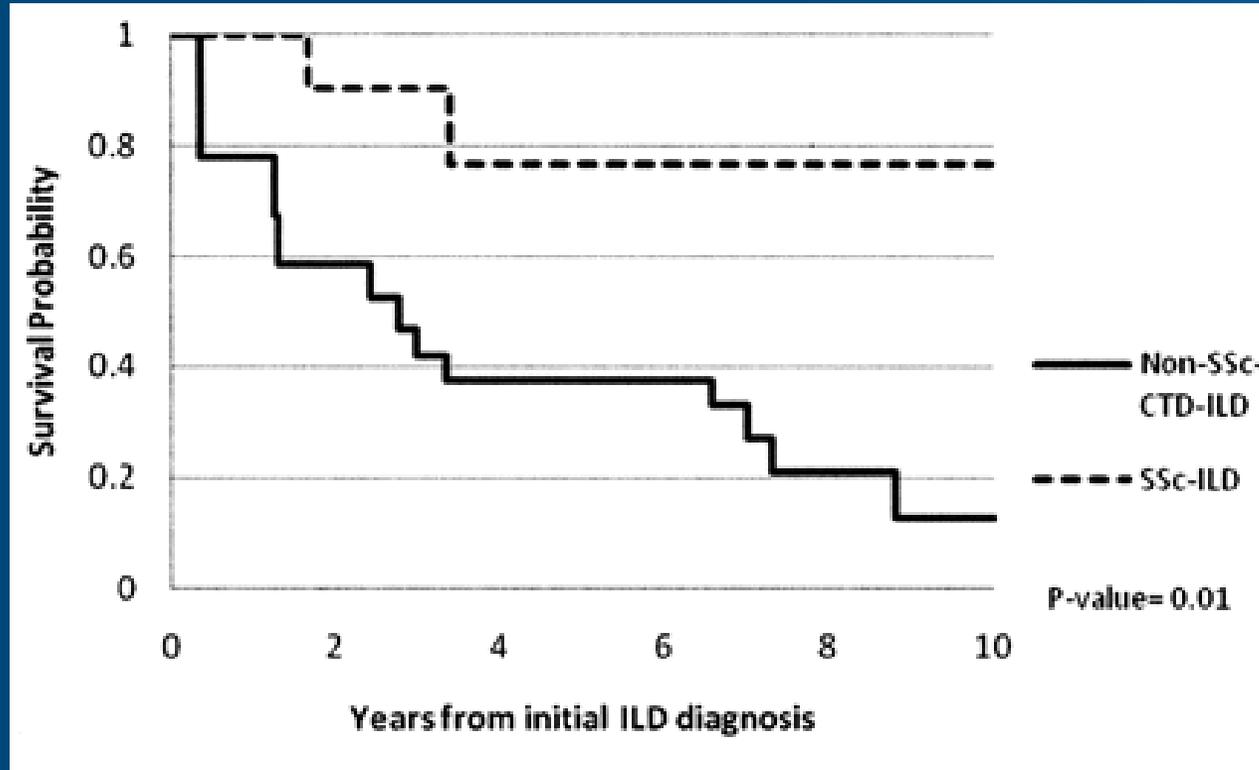


FIGURE 1. Survival trends in RA-ILD pre- and post-2000.

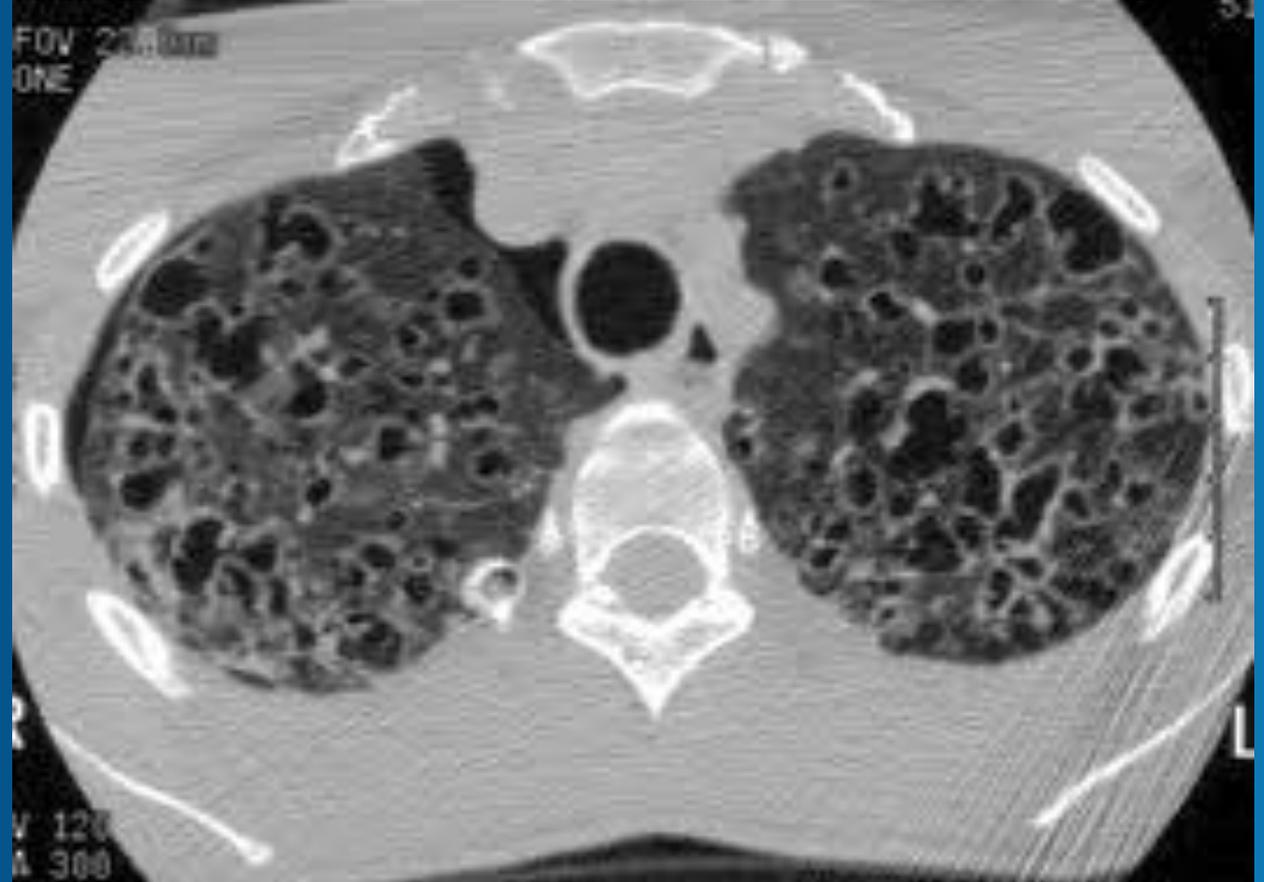
Pre/Post Disease Modifying Drugs

Chung et al. The Journal of Rheumatology vol. 38 no. 4 693-701 (2011)

Chan et al. Reports on the Rheumatic Diseases | Series 7 | Summer 2013 | Topical Reviews No 3

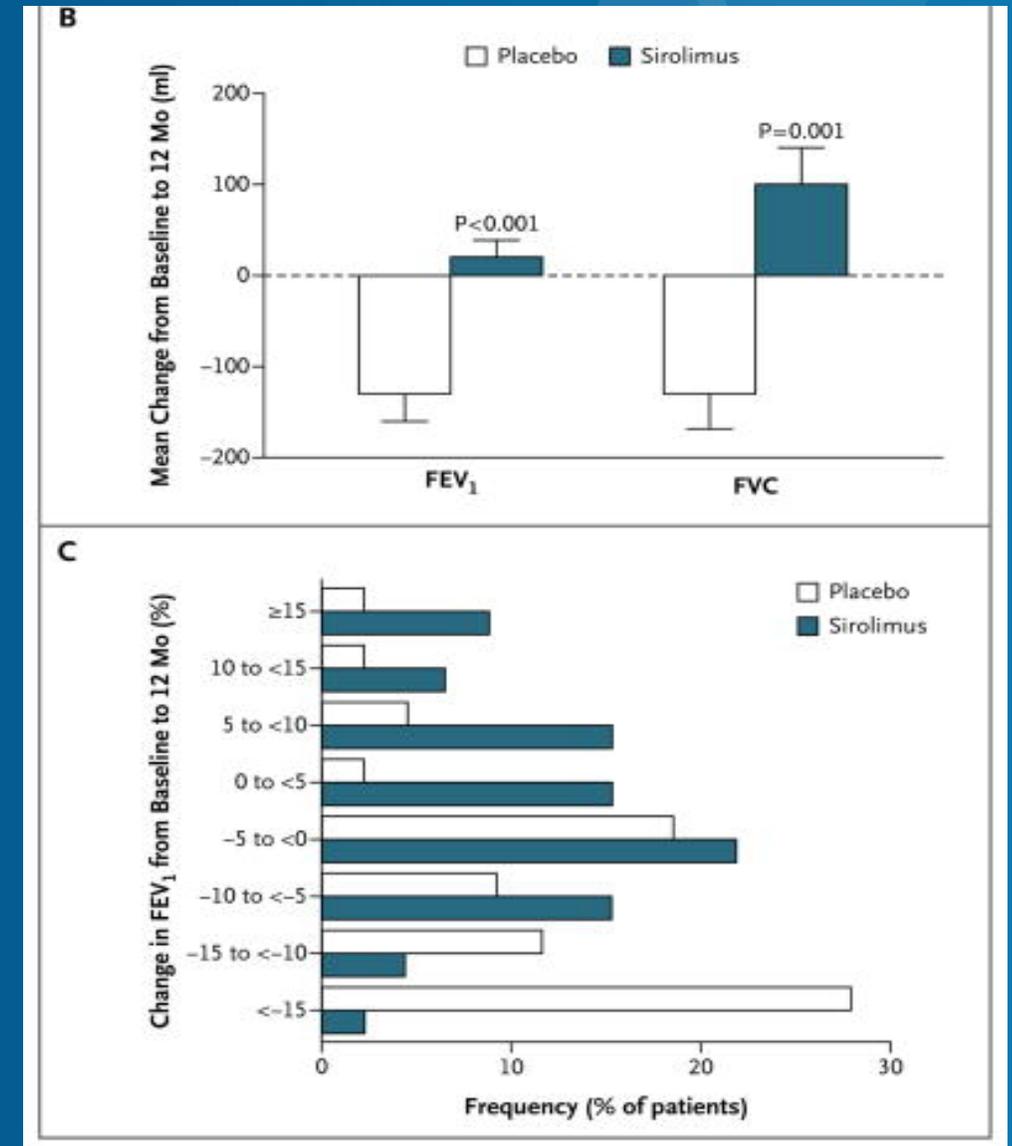
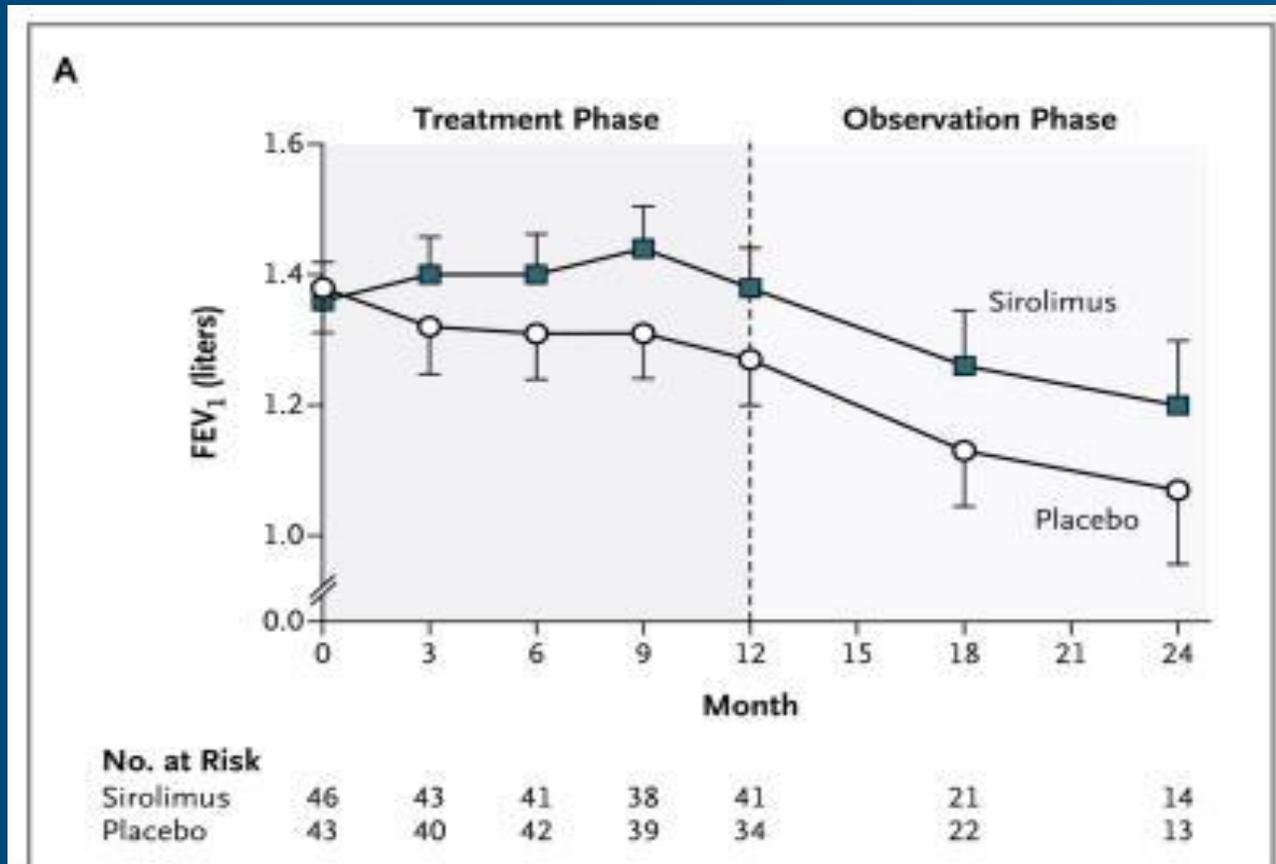
# Rapamune (Sirolimus) for Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM)

- Uncommon (3-7 per 1 million women)
- Average age of diagnosis 35 years
- Associated with cystic destruction of the lung, chylous pleural effusions, and abdominal tumors such as renal angiomyolipomas.
- 30 to 40% of women with tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) have LAM
- Clinically, respiratory impairment, recurrent pneumothoraces, and hypoxemia develop in most patients within a decade after the onset of symptoms

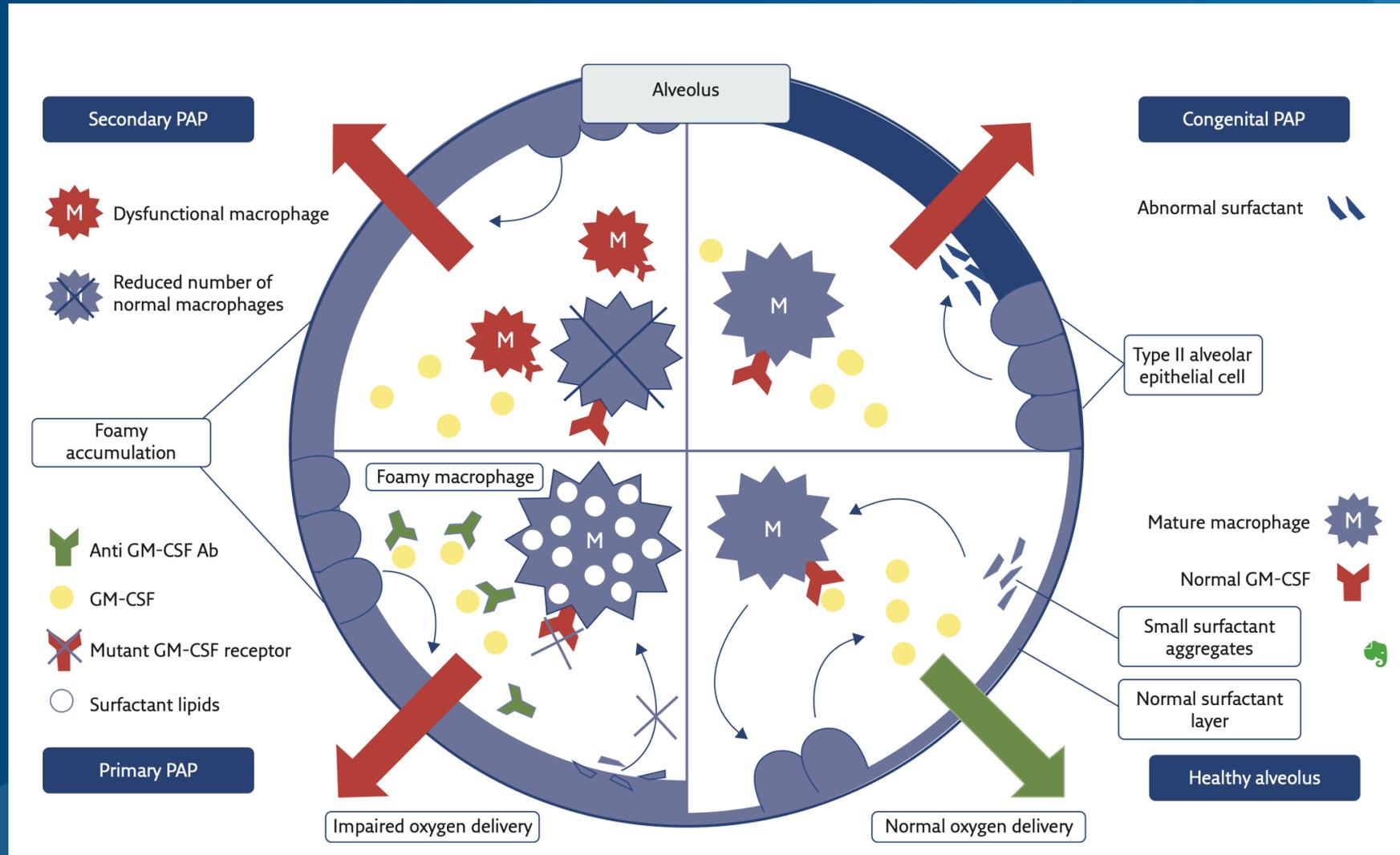


Lynch et al. N Engl J Med. 2011 Apr 28; 364(17): 1595–1606  
<https://www.thelamfoundation.org/learn-about-lam/what-is-lam/>

# Rapamune in LAM

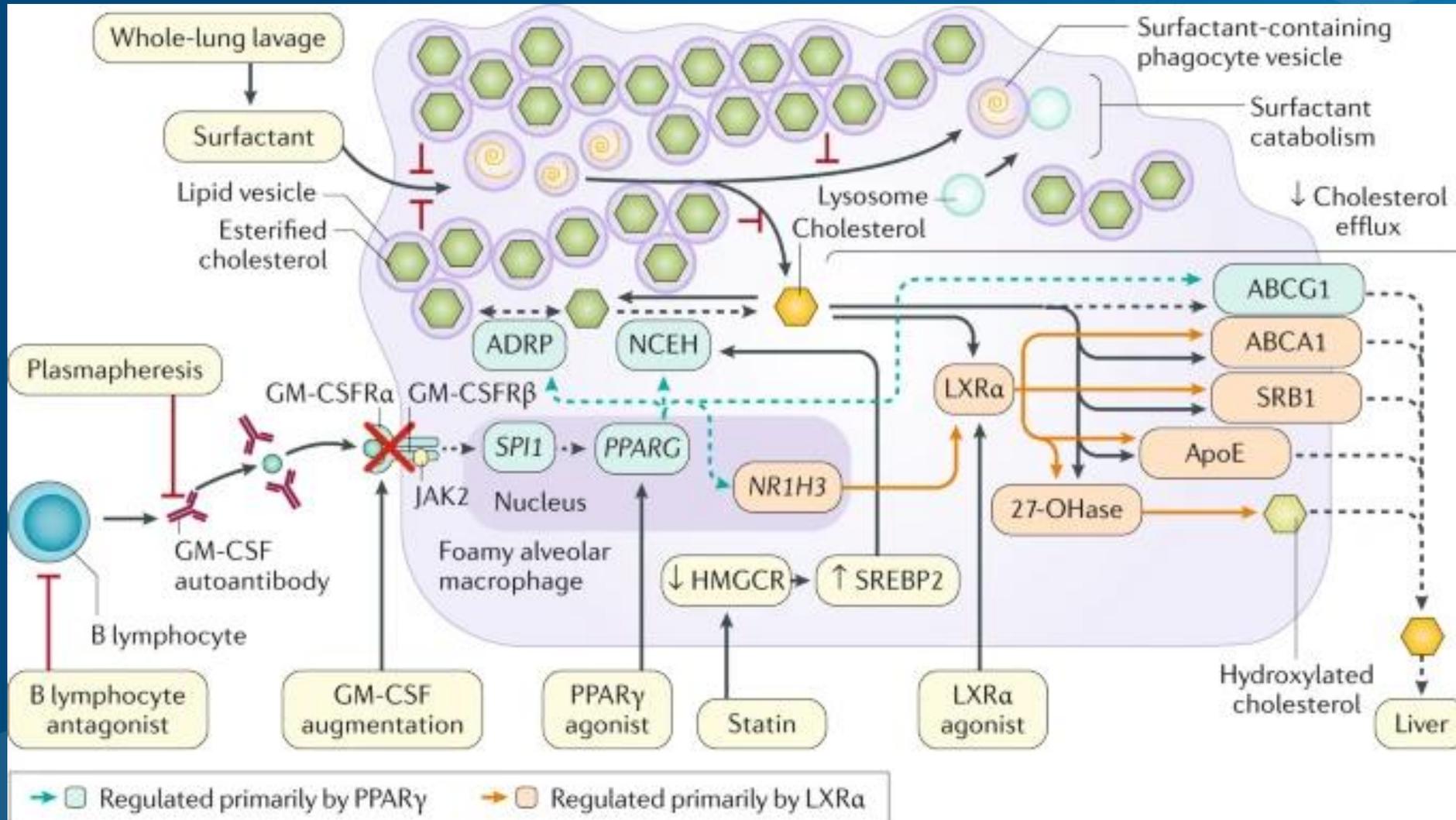


# Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis PAP



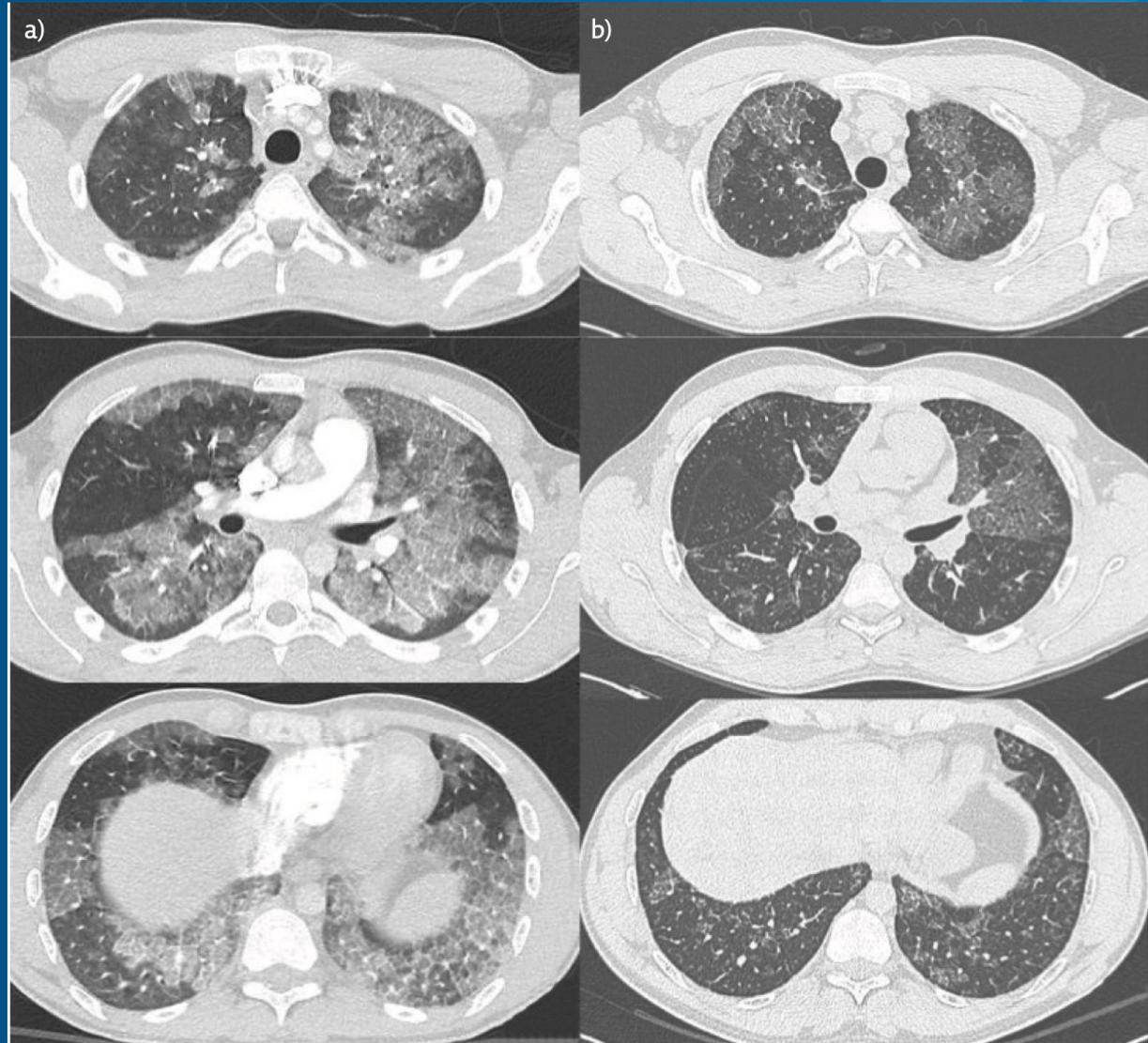
Salvaterra, Elena, and Ilaria Campo. "Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis: from classification to therapy." *Breathe* 16.2 (2020).  
 Ataya, Ali, et al. "The role of GM-CSF autoantibodies in infection and autoimmune pulmonary alveolar proteinosis: a concise review." *Frontiers in Immunology* 12 (2021): 752856.

# Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis PAP



# Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis PAP “Crazy Paving”

Pre and Post  
Whole Lung  
Lavage



Salvaterra, Elena, and Ilaria Campo. "Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis: from classification to therapy." *Breathe* 16.2 (2020).

# Sarcoidosis: “A Common Uncommon Disease”

**F:M 60:40**

**African American Female**

**LifeTime Risk 2.7%**

**20-40 years old: 50-100 / 100,000 per yr**

**Black Women’s Health Study**

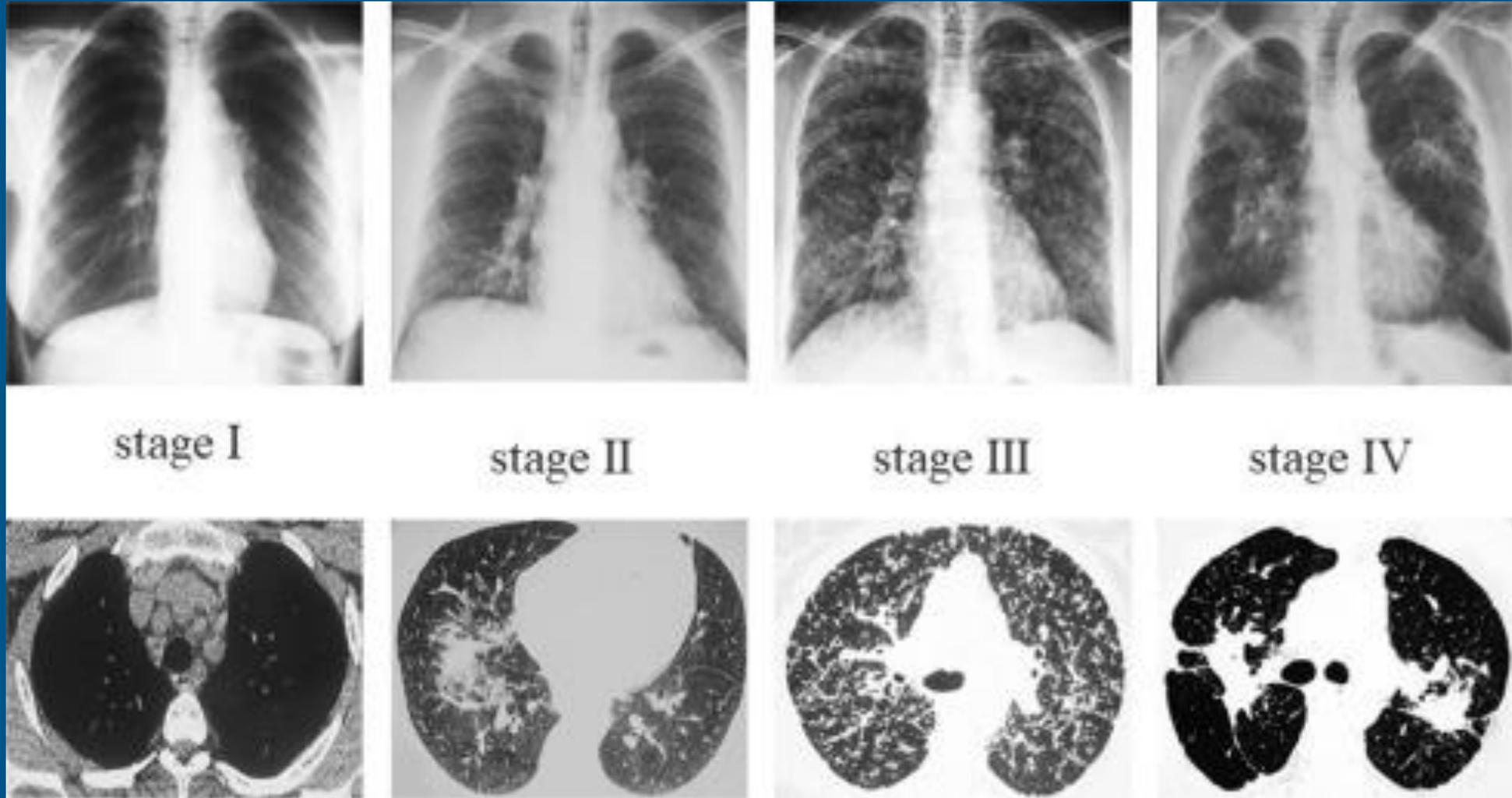
**Prevalence 1.6% (1023/59,000)**

**Annual incidence 70/100,000**

## Incidence

Sarcoid	50 / 100,000
IPF	15 / 100,000
SLE	40 / 100,000

# Sarcoidosis



Baughman, Robert P., and Elyse E. Lower. "The lung in autoimmune diseases: sarcoidosis." *Handbook of Systemic Autoimmune Diseases*. Vol. 17. Elsevier, 2022. 169-188.

# Treatment of Sarcoidosis:

The Expert Consensus Study proposed the following clinical phenotyping to guide treatment decisions<sup>1</sup>

Asymptomatic

No Therapy

Acute<sup>a</sup>

Steroids

Chronic<sup>b</sup>

Nonbiologic Cytotoxic Agents

Advanced<sup>c</sup>

Biologic Agents<sup>d</sup> and Acthar Gel

Study Limitations<sup>2</sup>:

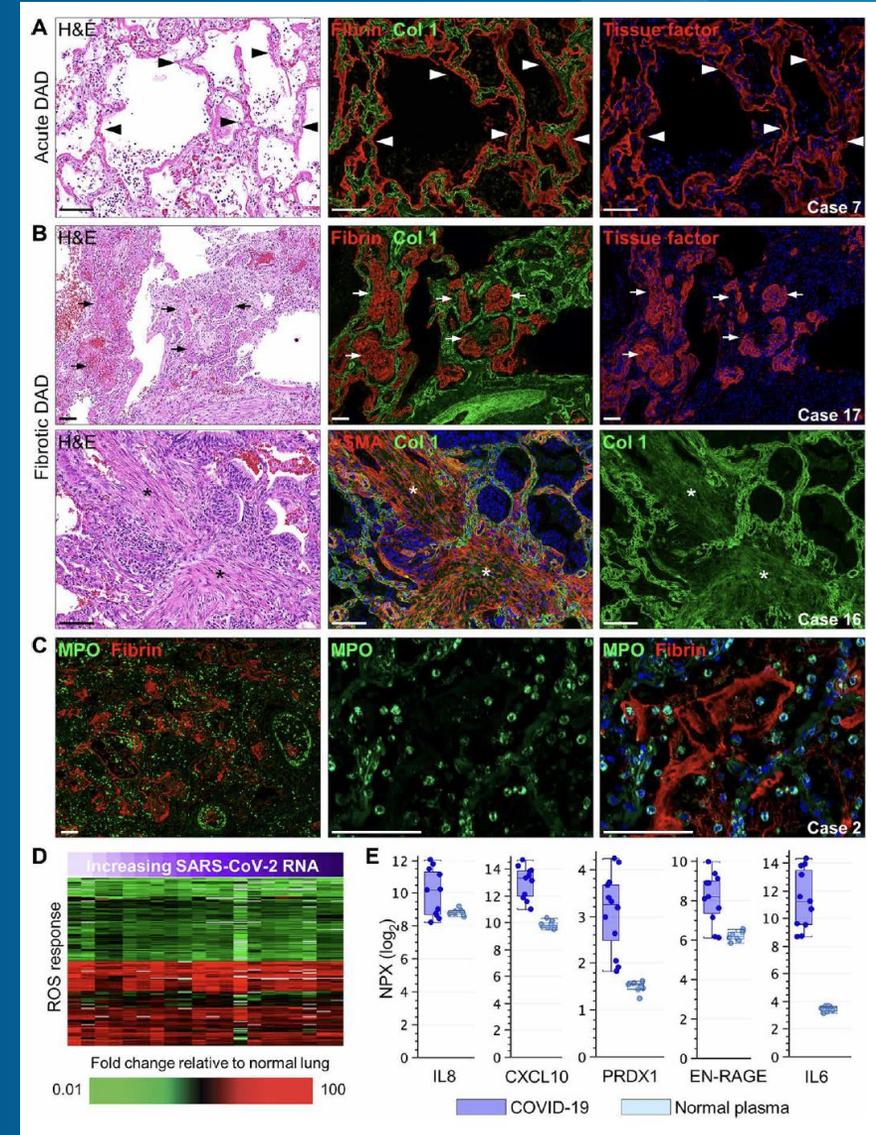
Crouser, Elliott D., et al. "Diagnosis and detection of sarcoidosis. An official American Thoracic Society clinical practice guideline." *American journal of respiratory and critical care medicine* 201.8 (2020): e26-e51

# Acute Interstitial Pneumonia and Diffuse Alveolar Damage (AIP/DAD)

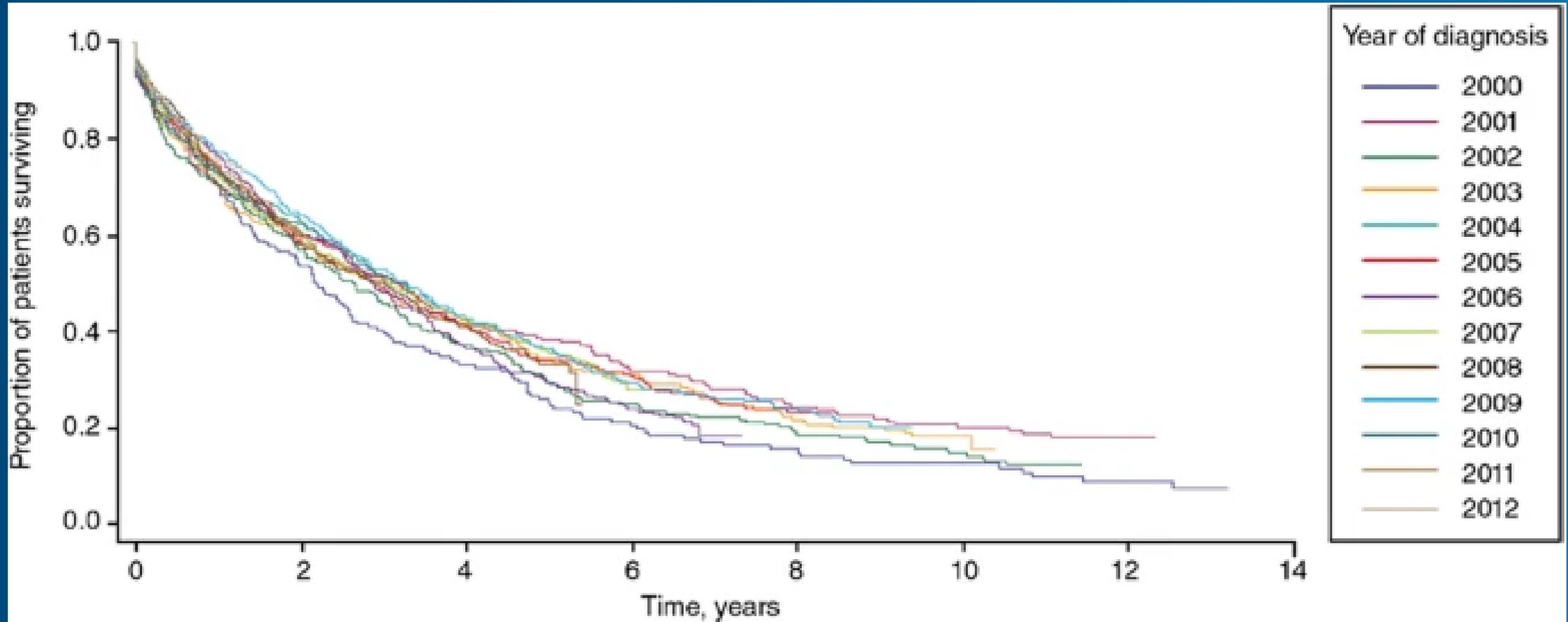
60% mortality, with most deaths occur within the first 6 months

People who survive usually do not have recurrence of disease

- Acute onset; ARDS, COVID-19
- Mainly in smokers, M:F 2:1, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> decade
- 50% fever, 50% clubbing
- Dyspnea lasts weeks to months
- Supportive care, steroids and antibiotics have shown little benefit



# Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF):



Maher, Toby M., and Mary E. Streck. "Antifibrotic therapy for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: time to treat." *Respiratory research* 20.1 (2019): 1-9.

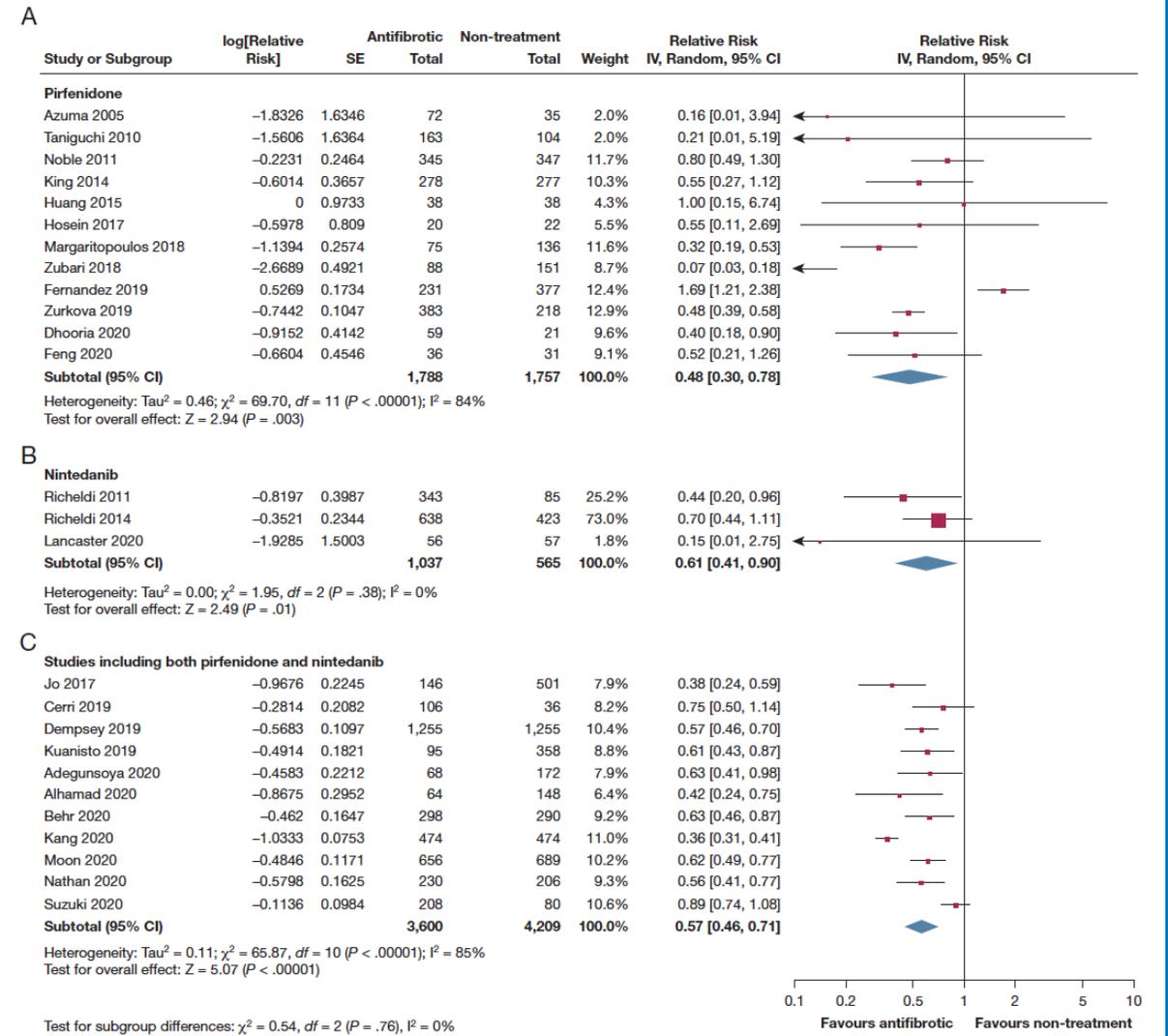
# Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF):

## Nintedanib (Ofev)

- Inhibits multiple tyrosine kinase inhibitors
- Dose: 150mg PO q12, 100mg q 12 with mild hepatic dysfunction
- Take with food, swallow whole with liquid, do not chew (bitter)
- LFTs and pregnancy test
- ~ 5% nausea, diarrhea, abdominal pain, vomiting, LFTs increase, decreased appetite, weight loss, HTN

## Pirfenidone

- Antifibrotic inhibits TGF-β
- Full dose 801mg tid (titrate up over 14 days)
- Take with food to reduce nausea and dizziness
- ~10% with side effects above, plus arthralgia, URI, GERD, insomnia



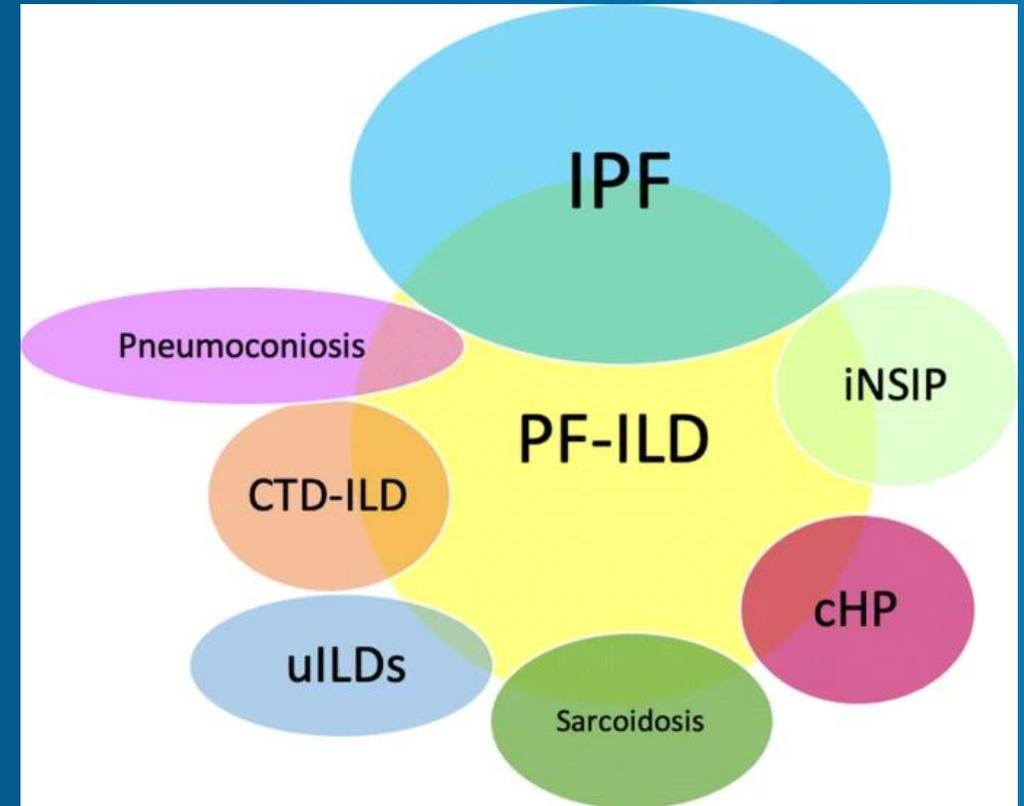
Petnak, Tananchai, et al. "Impact of antifibrotic therapy on mortality and acute exacerbation in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *Chest* 160.5 (2021): 1751-1763.

# Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF):

**Table 2. Proteins biomarkers with strongest transplant-free survival association in combined cohort (n=1226) analysis.**

Protein	HR	95% CI Low	95% CI High	FDR p-value
LTBP2	2.43	2.09	2.82	1.76 x 10 <sup>-28</sup>
COL24A1	2.11	1.86	2.39	1.76 x 10 <sup>-28</sup>
KRT19	1.60	1.47	1.74	7.00 x 10 <sup>-24</sup>
ITGB6	2.78	2.30	3.36	3.84 x 10 <sup>-23</sup>
SPINT1	2.78	2.28	3.38	1.79 x 10 <sup>-21</sup>
ROBO2	3.41	2.66	4.37	1.30 x 10 <sup>-19</sup>
SDC1	1.68	1.51	1.86	2.31 x 10 <sup>-19</sup>
SCGB3A2	1.29	1.22	1.36	2.50 x 10 <sup>-19</sup>
AREG	1.98	1.71	2.28	2.39 x 10 <sup>-18</sup>
PLA2G10	1.60	1.44	1.77	6.74 x 10 <sup>-17</sup>
SPON1	2.24	1.86	2.69	2.32 x 10 <sup>-15</sup>
ICAM5	2.23	1.84	2.70	3.89 x 10 <sup>-14</sup>
GDF15	1.71	1.49	1.96	6.55 x 10 <sup>-12</sup>
MZB1	1.53	1.37	1.71	6.72 x 10 <sup>-12</sup>
IGFBP1	1.23	1.17	1.30	5.06 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
WFDC2	1.84	1.56	2.17	8.27 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
RSPO1	1.60	1.41	1.82	1.34 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
SERPINA3	4.24	2.84	6.33	2.36 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
EVPL	1.73	1.49	2.02	4.06 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
CXCL17	1.52	1.35	1.71	4.06 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>

Estimates adjusted for age, sex, percent predicted FVC, percent predicted DLCO, smoking history, anti-fibrotic exposure, and immunosuppressant exposure at the time of blood draw  
 Abbreviations: HR = hazard ratio; CI = confidence interval; FDR = false discovery rate



Interstitial lung disease subtypes associated with a progressive fibrosing phenotype. cHP chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis, CTD-ILD connective tissue disease interstitial lung disease, iNSIP idiopathic non-specific pneumonia, IPF idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, PF-ILD progressive fibrosing interstitial lung disease, uILD unclassified interstitial lung disease

# Questions?

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