Pulmonary Fibrosis FACTS

Pulmonary Fibrosis (an Interstitial Lung Disease) is a **progressive disease** in which lung tissue becomes thickened, stiff, and scarred (fibrotic). The brain, heart, and other organs are **deprived of oxygen** needed to function properly. The scarring is **irreversible**.

PF is largely **progressive** and progressive PF is **100% FATAL**

More than 40,000 people DIE from Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis every year (as many as die from breast cancer)

50,000 NEW CASES of PF are diagnosed annually

There are **over 200,000** people living with PF in the US and **5 million** worldwide

ANYONE can get PF—adults ages 30-80 are at higher risk

The only pharmacologic **TREATMENTS** are medications to **slow the progression of PF** and extend life expectancy

There is no CURE for Pulmonary Fibrosis

PATIENTS gradually lose the ability to breathe as their lungs become fibrotic

Since 2001 the number of patients with PF has increased by 150%

More than 50% of cases are **misdiagnosed** for a year or more

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LUNG TRANSPLANTATION is the only "cure" and it's **not a cure** because **50% of patients listed will die before transplant** and most will not survive more than 5 years

Less than 1% of PF patients will get a lung transplant

FOUR TIMES AS MANY people have **PF** as Lou Gehrig's or CF

PF receives considerably **LESS GOV'T FUNDING** than other diseases

Most cases of **PF** are **IDIOPATHIC**—"no known cause"

PF is approximately 20% **GENETIC**

SYMPTOMS of Pulmonary Fibrosis

Symptoms of **Pulmonary Fibrosis** can include:

- Shortness of breath
- Chronic dry hacking cough
- Clubbing of fingers and/or toes
- Fatigue and weakness
- Abnormal chest sounds (Velcro sound)
- Loss of appetite
- Unexplained weight loss

For more information about **PF**

www.BreatheSupport.org

BreatheWithPF@gmail.com @BreatheWithPF



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