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

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Breathe Support Network
Advocating to provide support for pulmonary fibrosis patients & families

#LIVEWithPF