

Pulmonary Fibrosis Acronyms and Abbreviations

DISCLAIMER: Please note I am not a medical professional. I spent 6 years as caregiver for my mom, until her passing in 2009. I have since been a PF Advocate for Patients & Families, as well as moderator & owner of the Breathe Support Network of Groups. Information provided is from personal experience, combined with years of learning through interaction with patients, other caregivers, & medical professionals in the field of PF/IPF.

Do you get confused over all those acronyms and abbreviations? Here is a cheat sheet to help you navigate through them.

6MW Test– 6 Minute Walk Test: A test in which the patient walks for 6 minutes while having their oxygen saturation monitored. The results are used to determine a lung disease patient's need for supplemental oxygen.

ABG – Arterial Blood Gas: A blood draw typically from the wrist artery to check levels of Co2 in the blood after the gas exchange has taken place in the lungs.

AIP – Acute Interstitial Pneumonia: An idiopathic version of ARDS.

ALA – American Lung Association: An organization in the United States working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

APF – Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis: A charitable organization in the UK whose mission is to improve quality of life for patients with pulmonary fibrosis and fund research.

BLF – British Lung Foundation: A charitable organization in the UK whose mission is to improve quality of life for patients with lung disease and fund research.

BOOP – Bronchiolitis Obliterans with Organizing Pneumonia (also known as COP): A rare inflammatory lung disease.

BP – Blood Pressure

BSN – Breathe Support Network

CCN – Care Center Network: A group of ILD clinics around the United States identified by the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation as having physicians with a high level of knowledge in diagnosis and treating pulmonary fibrosis.

CO2 – Carbon Dioxide

COP – Cryptogenic Organizing Pneumonia (also known as BOOP): A rare inflammatory lung disease.

COPD – Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A group of progressive obstructive lung diseases.

CT – Computed Tomography: A type of scanning technology used to scan parts of the body.

CTD – Connective Tissue Disease: Diseases affecting the parts of the body that connect the structures of the body together.

DIP – Desquamative Interstitial Pneumonia: One of the rarest forms of IIP. Typically caused by cigarette smoking but can also be caused by other inhaled agents including marijuana smoke.

DLCO – Diffusion Capacity (Diffusion or Diffusing Capacity): A pulmonary function test measuring how well the lungs are exchanging carbon dioxide for oxygen in the blood.

DPLD – Diffuse Parenchymal Lung Disease: Another name for interstitial lung disease (ILD).

DLT – Double lung transplant

DVT – Deep Vein Thrombosis: One or more blood clots occurring in the deep veins of the body, usually the legs.

FEV1 – Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second: A pulmonary function test measuring the amount of air expelled in the first second when the patient blows as hard and fast as they can.

FPF – Familial Pulmonary Fibrosis: The hereditary form of pulmonary fibrosis.

FVC – Forced Vital Capacity: A pulmonary function test measuring the amount of air expelled after a deep inhalation and the patient blows out as hard as they can.

GERD – Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (also known as acid reflux, acid indigestion, heartburn, and reflux)

HFOT – High Flow Oxygen Therapy: A type of advanced oxygen therapy often used in hospitals that is a mixture of oxygen, compressed air, and humidification to deliver a higher concentration of supplemental oxygen to the patient. It is often used as a less invasive form of respiratory ventilation.

HP – Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis: Inflammation of the lung tissue due to a reaction to inhaled dust, molds, fungus, or chemicals.

HR – Heart Rate

HRCT – High Resolution Computed Tomography: A type of CT that uses specific techniques to enhance image resolution.

IIP – Idiopathic Interstitial Pneumonia: A diverse group of interstitial lung diseases with no known cause.

ILD – Interstitial Lung Disease: A large group of diseases that cause scarring (fibrosis) of the lung tissue.

IPF – Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis: One form of pulmonary fibrosis; pulmonary fibrosis with *no known cause* (idiopathic).

LAS – Lung Allocation Score: The score assigned to lung transplant patients to prioritize them on a list of waiting recipients.

NSIP – Non-specific Interstitial Pneumonia: A form of pulmonary fibrosis characterized by either inflammation (cellular NSIP) or fibrosis (fibrotic NSIP) of the lung tissue.

O₂ – Oxygen

OSA – Obstructive Sleep Apnea

PE – Pulmonary Embolism: A blood clot that has entered the lung.

PF – Pulmonary Fibrosis: A type of interstitial lung disease causing scarring of the lungs.

PFA – Pulmonary Fibrosis Association: A non-profit organization based in Texas whose specialty is to provide funding to pay for oxygen for patients whose insurance does not cover any or all of the cost or patients who do not have insurance.

PPF – Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation: A non-profit organization based in Illinois whose mission it is to further the advancement of research, awareness, and education about pulmonary fibrosis.

PFT – Pulmonary Function Test: A group of breathing tests to measure lung function.

PH – Pulmonary Hypertension: High blood pressure of the lungs and a common side effect of pulmonary fibrosis.

POLST – Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Therapy: A form of advanced medical directives. See www.polst.org

PPF – Progressive Pulmonary Fibrosis

Pulse Ox – Pulse Oximetry: The way to determine oxygen saturation of the blood after the gas exchange has taken place in the lungs.

RA – Rheumatoid Arthritis: A progressive autoimmune disease characterized by swelling and pain around the joints of the body.

RB-ILD – Respiratory Bronchiolitis-Associated Interstitial Lung Disease: A form of idiopathic interstitial pneumonia caused by smoking.

SATS – Saturation: The measure of oxygen saturation in the blood after the gas exchange has taken place in the lungs.

SG – Support Group

SLT – Single lung transplant

SOB – Shortness of Breath

SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance: Disability income available to workers who have accumulated enough work credits during their work history.

SSI – Supplemental Security Income: Disability income available to low income individuals who have either never worked or did not accumulate enough work credits during their work history.

TLC/TLV – Total Lung Capacity/Total Lung Volume: The amount of air that can fill the lungs.

UIP – Usual Interstitial Pneumonia: The same as IPF.

UNOS – United Network for Organ Sharing: A non-profit organization, working under contract with the federal government, to manage organ transplants in the United States.

VATS – Video Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery: A type of thoracic surgery often used for lung biopsy, performed by making small incisions in the patient’s chest and using a video camera on a scope and instruments to perform necessary procedures.

Prepared by:

Taleena Koch
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocate for Patients & Families
Breathe Support Network
breathewithpf@gmail.com
www.BreatheSupport.org

last updated 3/12/2025



#LIVEwithPF