

Pulmonary Fibrosis

Findings from Washington Hospital Center provide new insights into pulmonary fibrosis

2008 FEB 2 - (NewsRx.com) -- Fresh data on pulmonary fibrosis are presented in the report 'Pulmonary hypertension in patients with pulmonary fibrosis awaiting lung transplant.' According to recent research from the United States, "Pulmonary hypertension (PH) may complicate idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) but the prevalence of PH in IPF remains undefined. The present authors sought to describe the prevalence of PH in IPF."

"The lung transplant registry for the USA (January 1995 to June 2004) was analysed and IPF patients who had undergone right heart catheterisation (RHC) were identified. PH was defined as a mean pulmonary arterial pressure ((Ppa) \geq 25 mmHg and severe PH as a (Ppa) $>$ 40 mmHg. Independent factors associated with PH were determined. Of the 3,457 persons listed, 2,525 (73.0%) had undergone RHC. PH affected 46.1% of subjects; approximately 9% had severe PH. Variables independently associated with mild-to-moderate PH were as follows: need for oxygen, pulmonary capillary wedge pressure (P(pcw)) and forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV(1)). Independent factors related to severe PH included the following: carbon dioxide tension, age, FEV(1), P(pcw), need for oxygen and ethnicity. A sensitivity analysis in subjects with P(pcw) $<$ 15 mmHg did not appreciably alter the present findings. Pulmonary hypertension is common in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients awaiting lung transplant, but the elevations in mean pulmonary arterial pressure are moderate. Lung volumes alone do not explain the pulmonary hypertension," wrote A.F. Shorr and colleagues, Washington Hospital Center.

The researchers concluded: "Given the prevalence of pulmonary hypertension and its relationship with surrogate markers for quality of life (e.g. activities of daily living), future trials of therapies for this may be warranted."

Shorr and colleagues published their study in *European Respiratory Journal* (Pulmonary hypertension in patients with pulmonary fibrosis awaiting lung transplant. *European Respiratory Journal*, 2007;30(4):715-21).

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