

Progress to PerFection: Navigating the Path from Diagnosis to Advanced Treatment of PPF



Martin Kolb

Organization Department of Medicine, Respiriology, McMaster University, Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health
Current Position Professor

Educational background

2003 Ph.D., University Lecturer for Internal Medicine, Julius-Maximillian University, Würzburg, Germany
1992 M.D., Julius-Maximillian University, Würzburg

Professional experience

2009-Present Research Director, Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health, McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
2013-2024 Director, Division for Respiriology, Department of Medicine, McMaster University Hamilton
2018-2022 Chief Editor, European Respiratory Journal

The interstitial lung diseases include several forms of pulmonary fibrosis, many of them being progressive and leading to impaired lung function and death within years. Besides idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis there are other disease driven by autoimmunity, antigen responses or inhaled or ingested substances (e.g. asbestos or medications) that behave similarly to IPF are called “progressive pulmonary fibrosis” (PPF) since a few years. The diagnostic pathway is clearly delineated in guidelines, but the practical approach to these disorders differs widely between countries based on access to tools and clinical expertise. Treatment of PPF include non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic approaches. Anti-inflammatory drugs are often the first step, but once fibrosis progresses, patients are treated with antifibrotics. Only Nintedanib has been widely approved for PPF. Earlier this year, the Fibroneer trials have been published and showed at equal efficacy of nerandomilast on the decline of lung function in PPF compared to Nintedanib with much better tolerability. Further, there were signals showing reduced mortality and hospital admissions for nerandomilast treated patients, especially in the PPF trial. The presentation will update the audience on the diagnosis and treatment of PPF discuss how new drugs might affect the future management.