



Fleischner Society Update in Classification of IPF

Sapana Panday: Hello. We're here in Toronto at the final day of the CHEST Annual Conference, and I'm here with Dr. David Lynch. Dr. Lynch, I understand there's been some new guidelines from the Fleischner Society. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Dr. David Lynch: Yes. Well, there have been established guidelines for the diagnosis of IPF for several years now, and those guidelines are very helpful in implementing clinical trials, and ultimately successful trials, for two new drugs for treatment of IPF. But, over the past six years, we've learned a lot about this disease, and we felt it was time for members of the Fleischner Society to update the diagnostic criteria. We produced this paper which is in press in Lancet Respiratory Medicine. Hopefully, we'll be published in the next month. The paper offers several updated criteria for the diagnosis of IPF. In particular, it recognizes a category of probable UIP on CT, which has a very high predictive value for diagnosis of UIP. Secondly, the term inconsistent with UIP is no longer being used, and we will just use the term suggestive of an alternative diagnosis. We anticipate that those changes, among others, will result in the greater ability of patients to get treatment for IPF, often without a surgical lung biopsy.