Exploring New Therapeutic Avenues for Managing PF

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We're here in Nashville, Tennessee on the final day of the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Summit. It's been a great day today and there've been a lot of really interesting talks.

Today, one of the sessions was about new therapies in pulmonary fibrosis. It was a really exciting session because there was a really wide range of topics covered.

The first speaker presented some really wonderful data that was done by a nursing foundation, looking at how well our patients are actually being able use the oxygen that they're prescribed, and how comfortable they are with the oxygen prescriptions they get, and whether they have difficulties in getting the oxygen that's prescribed by their physicians. This is obviously a very important issue for many of our patients who are using oxygen, and it's really one of the largest studies to be done to look at this issue.

After that talk, there were several talks looking at different aspects of how to make our clinical trials better, how to make them more efficient. Either by using biomarkers or by using other strategies to improve their personalized medicine aspect. That is, to match the drug to the patient who's receiving it. I think that this is an area that we are going to see of research on in the next couple of years.

One of the interesting studies that came out was talking about stem cell therapy. Now this is really something that's not quite ready for prime time for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, but has been used with great success in other areas particularly in fields like leukemia, lymphoma, and in some of the genetic disorders. And although it's not quite at the same level for patients who have pulmonary fibrosis, we can see that this is a topic that we're going to be hearing a whole lot more about.