



# Anti-fibrotics or Immunosuppressants in CTD-PF (or both)

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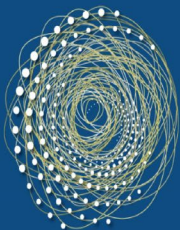
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ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ

31<sup>ο</sup> Έτος

Ημέρες Παθολογίας 2023

"Διλήμματα στην Κλινική Παθολογία"



Ξενοδοχείο  
Crowne Plaza  
Αθήνα

30 Μαρτίου έως

01 Απριλίου

2023

# Conflict of interest disclosure

I have no real or perceived conflicts of interest that relate to this presentation.

I have the following real or perceived conflicts of interest that relate to this presentation:

## Affiliation / Financial interest

## Commercial Company

Grants/research support:

Boehringer Ingelheim, Hoffmann La Roche, Chiesi, Elpen, Astra Zeneca

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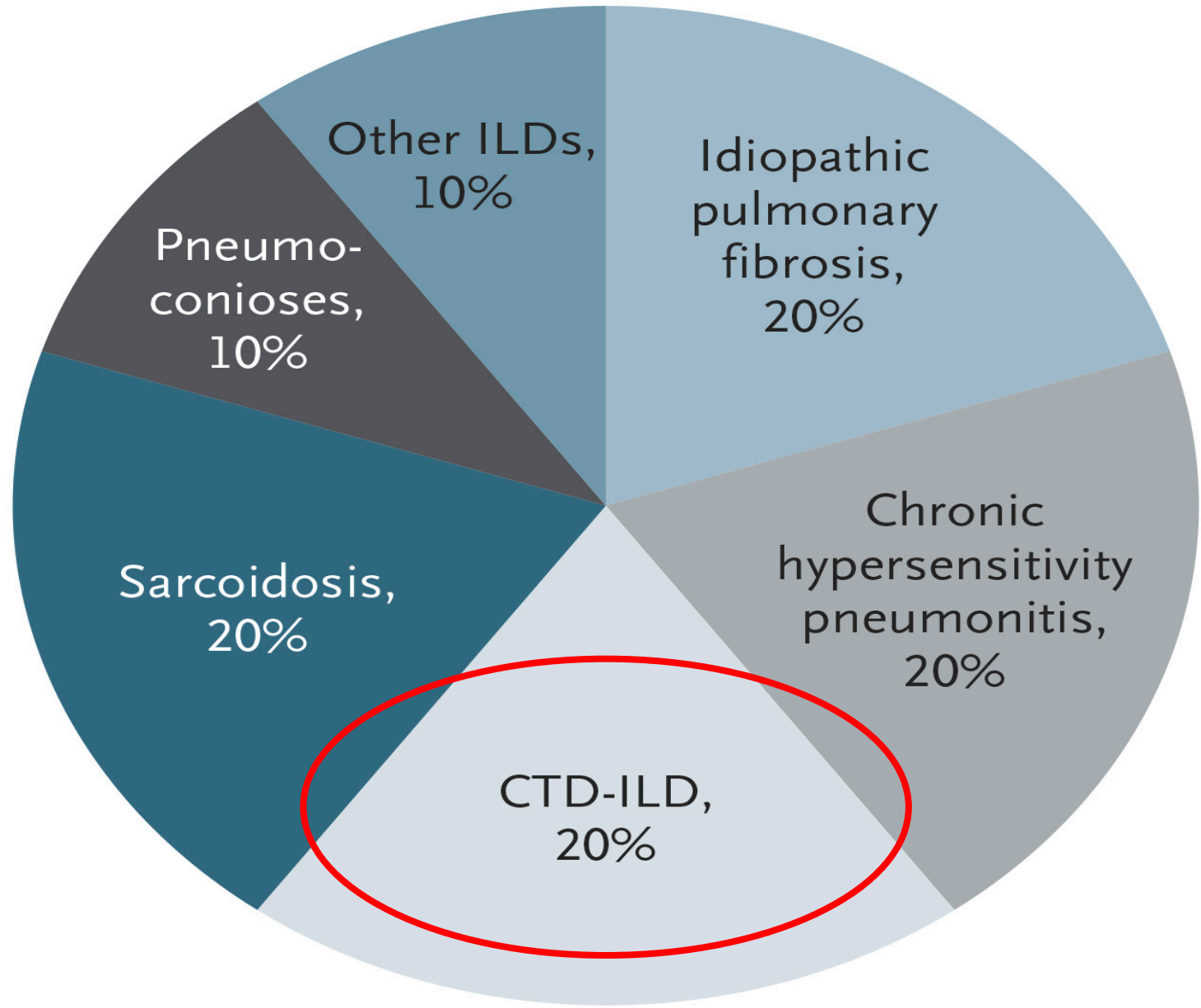
Other support / potential conflict of interest:

Holder of a therapeutic patent «Inhaled or aerosolized delivery of thyroid hormone to the lung as a novel therapeutic agent in fibrotic lung diseases” OCR#6368” disclosed to Yale University

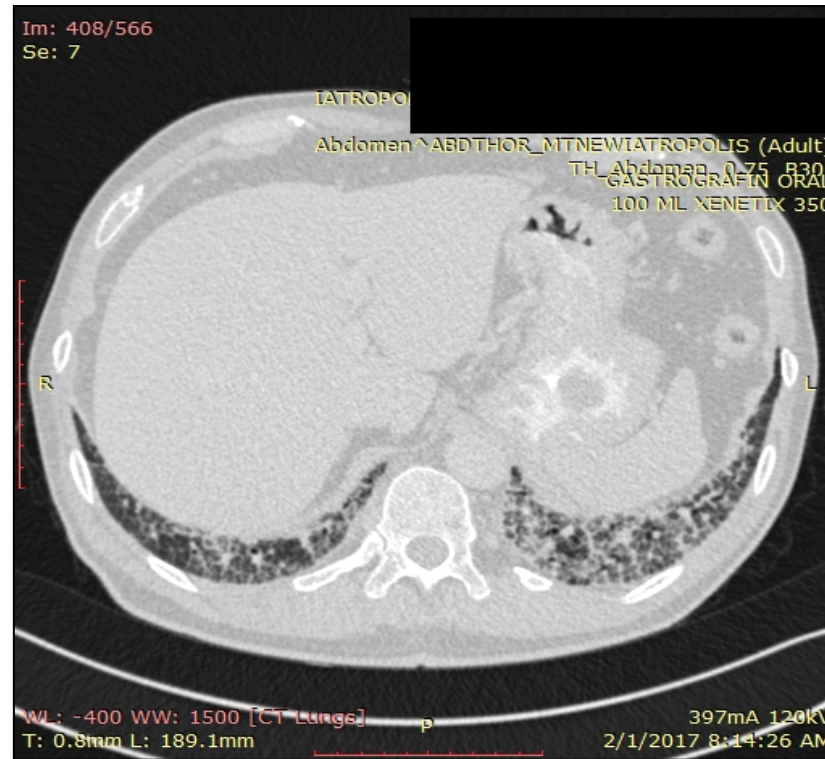
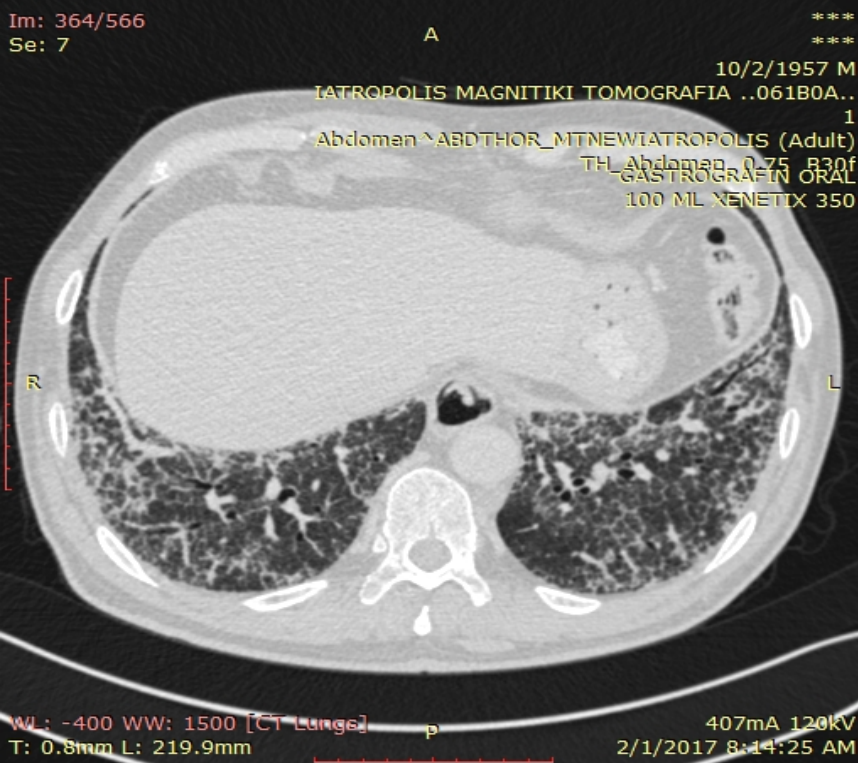
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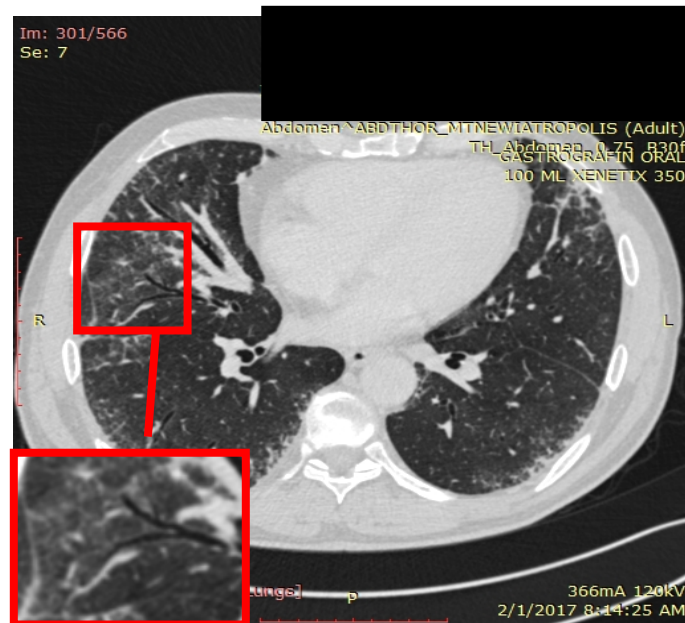
# Estimated Relative Distribution of Specific ILDs in the US





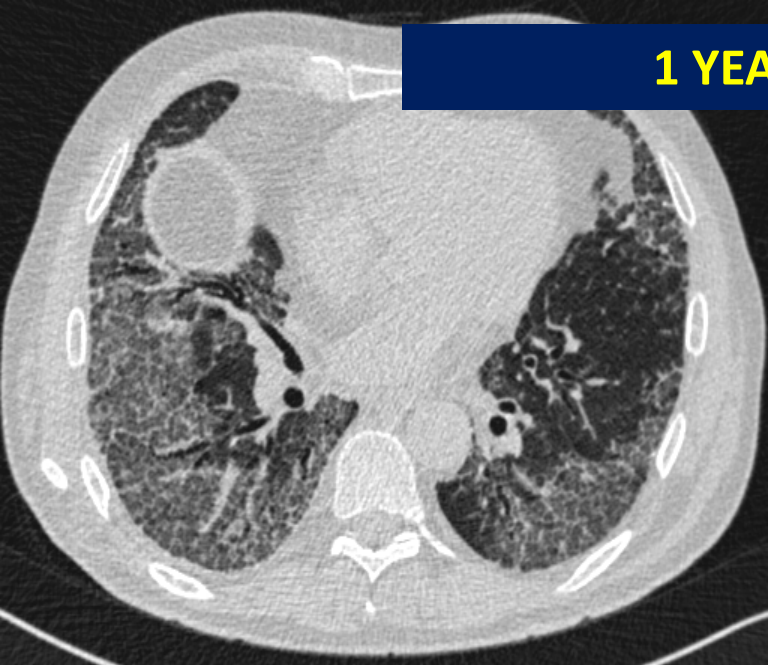


**60 yrs old female, ex-smoker,  
history of hypercalciuria,  
hashimoto,  
Non-productive cough, DOE  
(II/IV) last 6 mo, low-grade  
fever last 3 days – family doctor  
– moxifloxacin (WBCs: 17450,  
CRP: 3.4)- Raynaud, no  
arthralgia-myalgia**

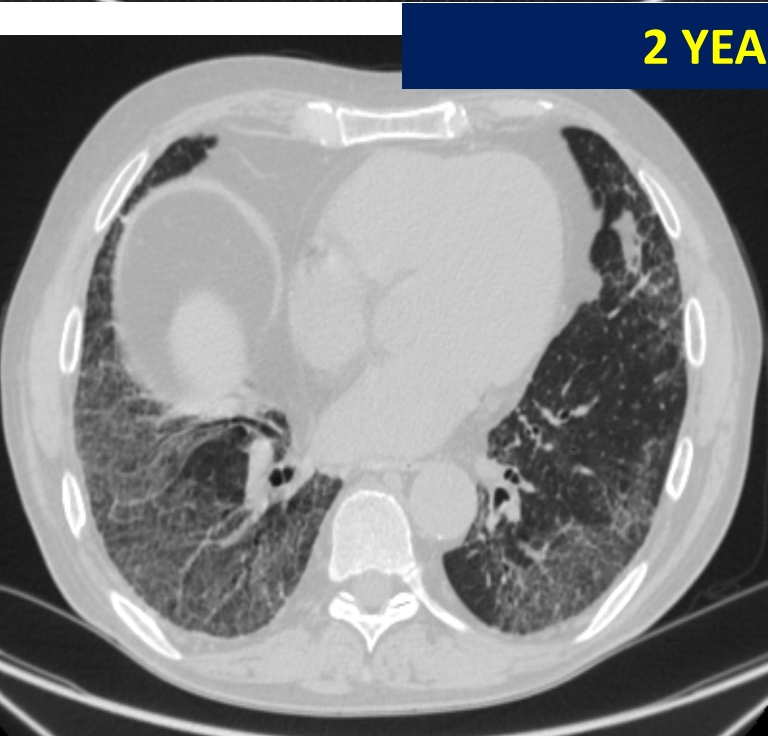
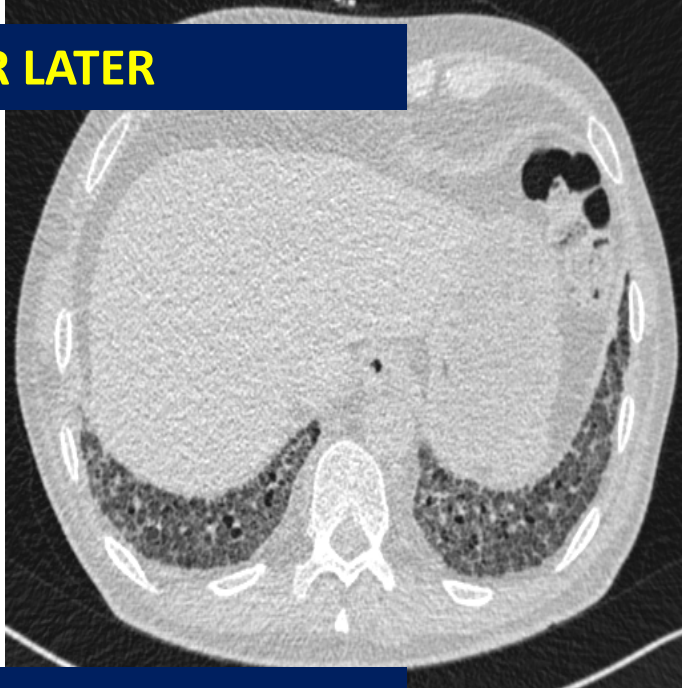


**BAL: 37%L, (-) AFB, (-) fungi  
ANA: 1/640, anti-SCL70+, RF: (-)  
RVSP: 25 mmHg, 6MWD: 410 m,  
SaO2: 98% – 94%  
FVC: 72%, FEV1/FVC: 85, TLC:63%,  
DLCO: 68%  
Commenced on Rituximab plus  
MMF**





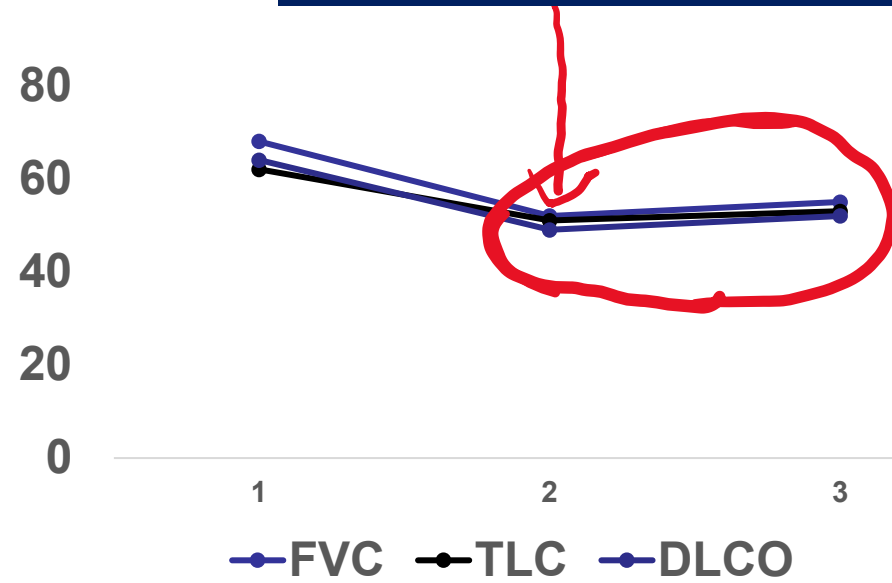
**1 YEAR LATER**



**2 YEARS LATER**

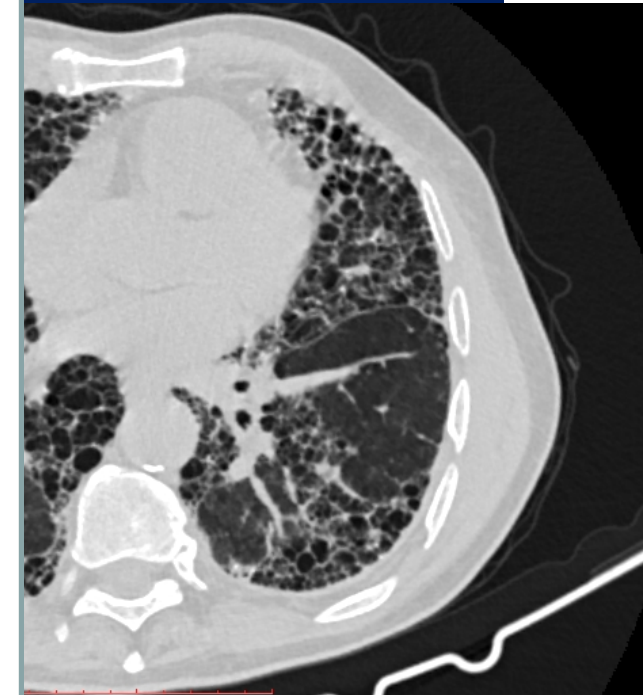
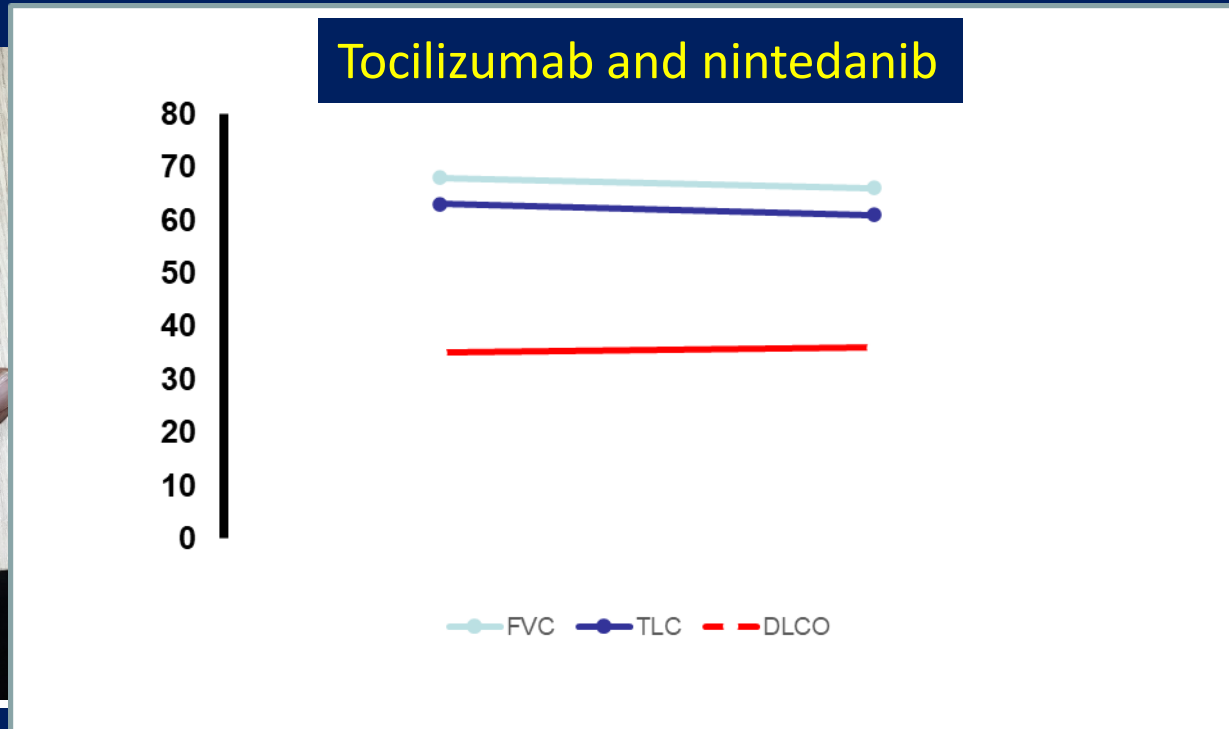


**NINTEDANIB+MMF  
(STOP RTX)**





**72-yr old, female, non-smoker, dry cough+DOE (mMRC II/IV) the past 9 months –**  
**Morning stiffness, arthralgia past 3 years**  
**Coronary Heart disease, arterial hypertension, hyperlipidemia**  
**Velcro type crackles +**



**BAL: 28%L,N:13% (-) AFB, (-) fungi,**  
**FVC: 68%, TIF: 73, TLC: 63%, DLCO: 35% (used to be 56% 12 mo ago) under MTX-PZN)**  
**RVSP: 35 mmHg, Serology: ANA: 1/160, RF: 165U/ml, anti-CCPs: 18 (3x)**

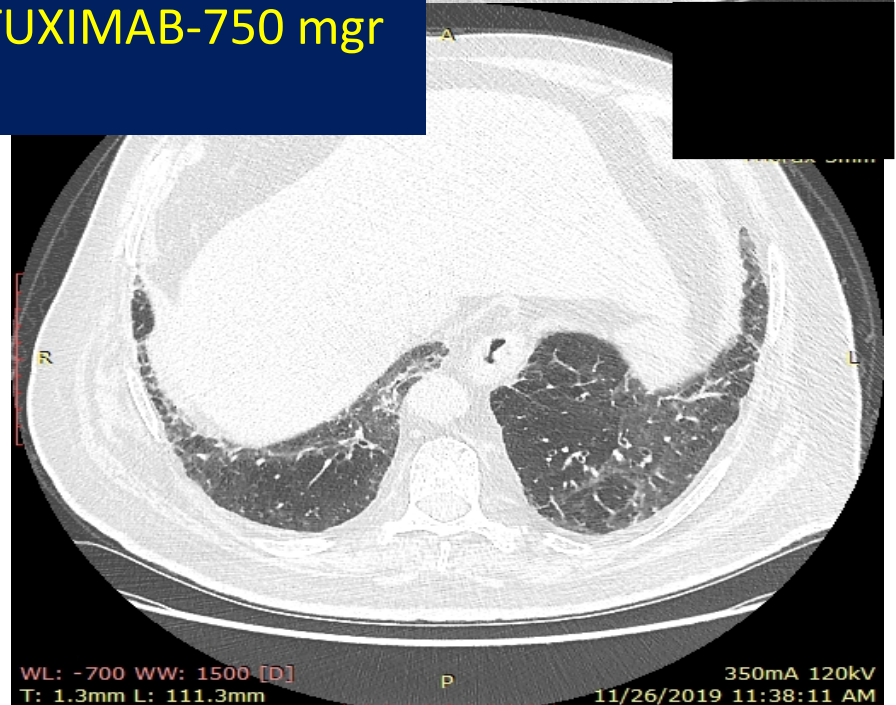
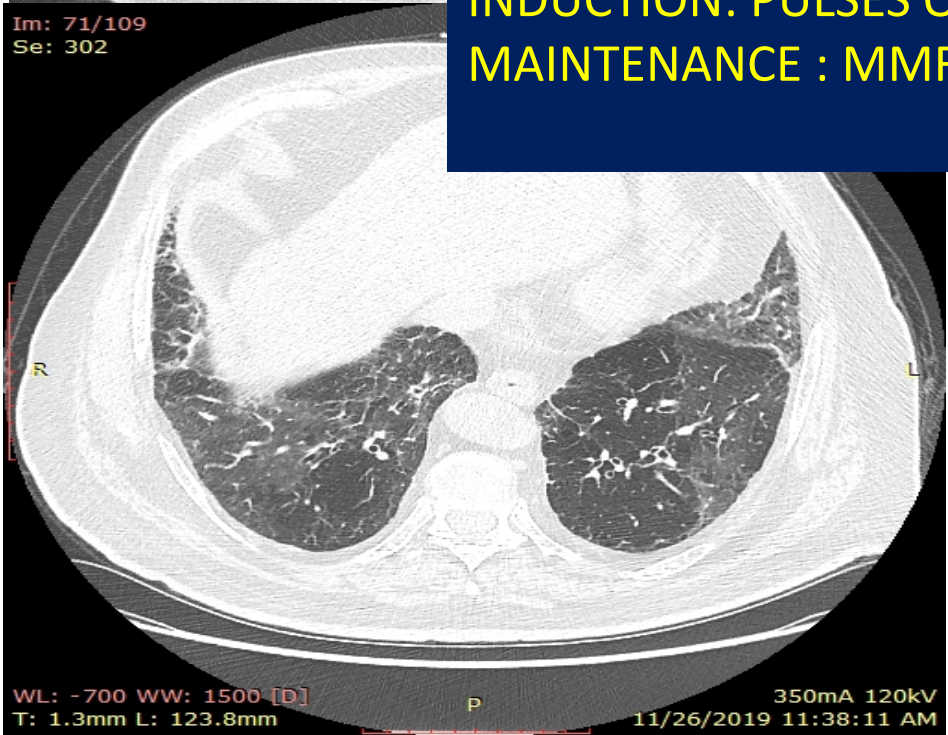




47 yrs old female, non-smoker, DOE (II/IV), dry cough-mild fever-recurrent RTIs past 9 months treated with BDs-antibiotics-NO MYALGIA-history unremarkable – Velcro type crackles +



**INDUCTION: PULSES OF CS+RITUXIMAB-750 mgr**  
**MAINTENANCE : MMF -2gr + RITUXIMAB-750 mgr**







# HRCT

# PFTs



Im: 71/109  
Se: 302

1 months

FYTRAKIS IOSIF  
61777  
6/3/1952 M  
AFEIDEA PEIRAIA  
15716  
CHEST  
Thorax 5mm



9 months

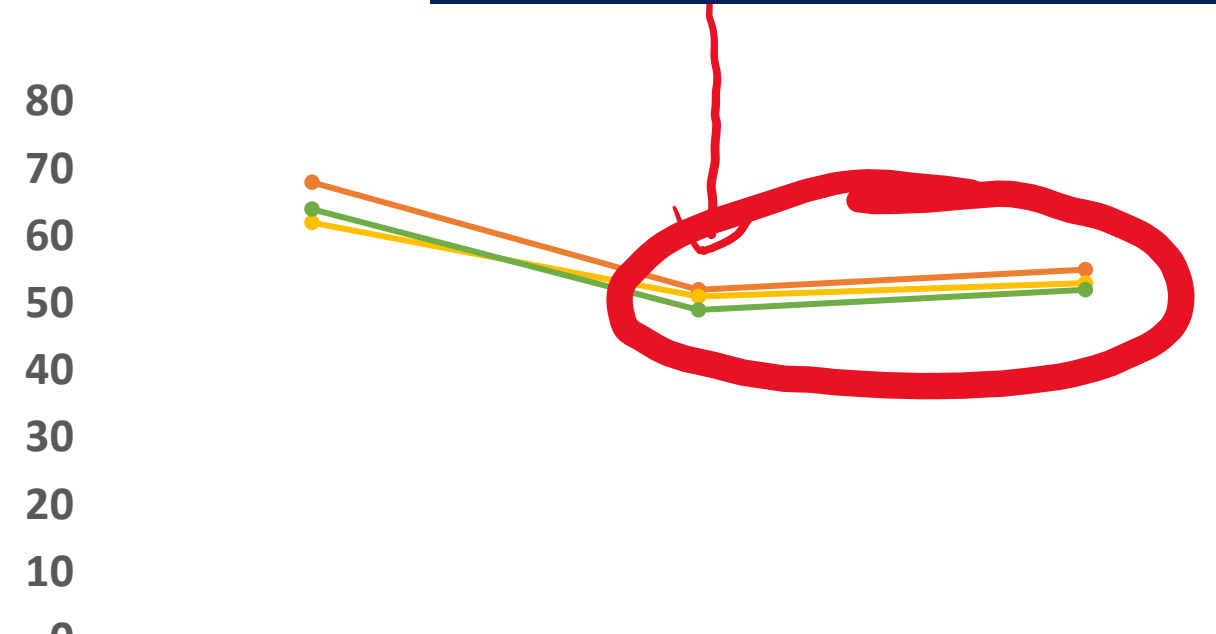


STOP RTX  
MMF 2gr + NINTEDANIB 150mg bid

80  
70  
60  
50  
40  
30  
20  
10  
0

1 months      12 months      20 months

—●— FVC    —●— TLC    —●— DLCO

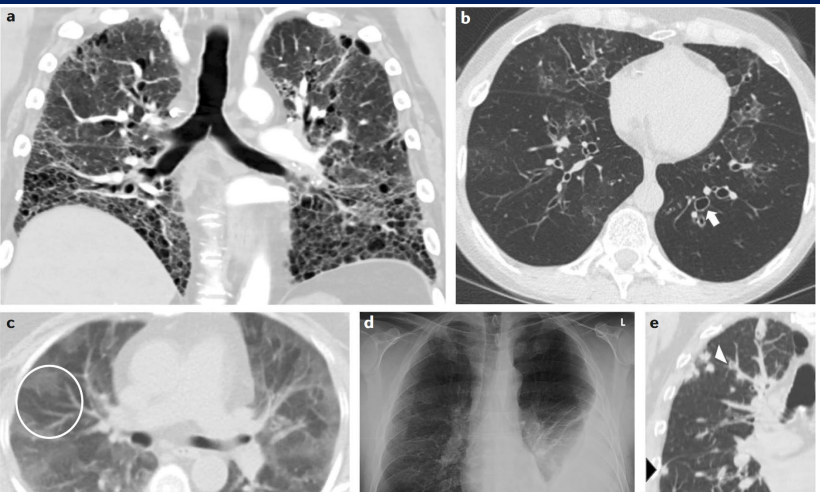




**What we have learned so far?**



# L1: Screen patients with symptoms – Be aware



## Respiratory involvement in autoimmune diseases

### • Pleomorphic Involvement

### MAIN DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSES

- Direct pulmonary involvement
- Indirect

- ✓ Drug induced respiratory involvement?
- ✓ Infection-Immunocompromise?
- ✓ Comorbidities? (PH-COPD-Lung cancer)

• 10-15% of cases ILD precedes CTD diagnosis!

## Interstitial lung disease in connective tissue disorders

Aryeh Fischer, Roland du Bois

Lancet

Vol 380 August 18, 2012

	ILD	Airways	Pleural	Vascular	DAH
Systemic sclerosis	+++	-	-	+++	-
Rheumatoid arthritis	++	++	++	+	-
Primary Sjogren's syndrome	++	++	+	+	-
Mixed CTD	++	+	+	++	-
Polymyositis/dermatomyositis	+++	-	-	+	-
Systemic lupus erythematosus	+	+	+++	+	++

The signs show prevalence of each manifestation (–=no prevalence; +=low prevalence; ++=medium prevalence; +++=high prevalence). ILD=interstitial lung disease. DAH=diffuse alveolar haemorrhage. CTD=connective tissue disease.

Table 1: CTDs and common pulmonary manifestations

## Airway involvement in autoimmune diseases

	Rheumatoid arthritis	SLE	DM/PM	Sjögren's
Bronchitis	++			+
Bronchiectasis	++			±
Follicular bronchiolitis	±			±
Oblit. bronchiolitis	+	±	±	
BOOP/OP	++	±	++	±





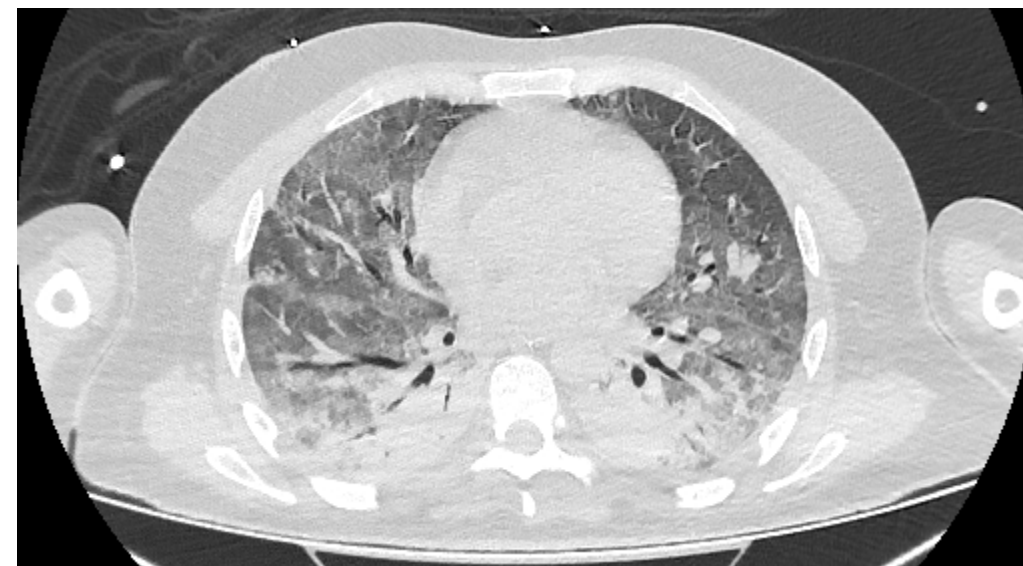
# Sometimes you have to search deeper...



## Myositis panel maybe necessary

- ANA
- Anti-CCPs
- RF
- p, c ANCA
- ENA panel
  1. *Scl-70*
  2. *SSA-Ro*
  3. *SSB-La*
  4. *Jo-1*
  5. *RNP*
  6. *Sm*

- Mi-2a
- Mi-2b
- TIF1-Y
- MDA5
- NXP2
- SAE-1
- Ku
- PM Scl-100
- PM-Scl-75
- Jo-1
- SRP
- PL-7
- PL-12
- EJ
- OJ
- Ro-52





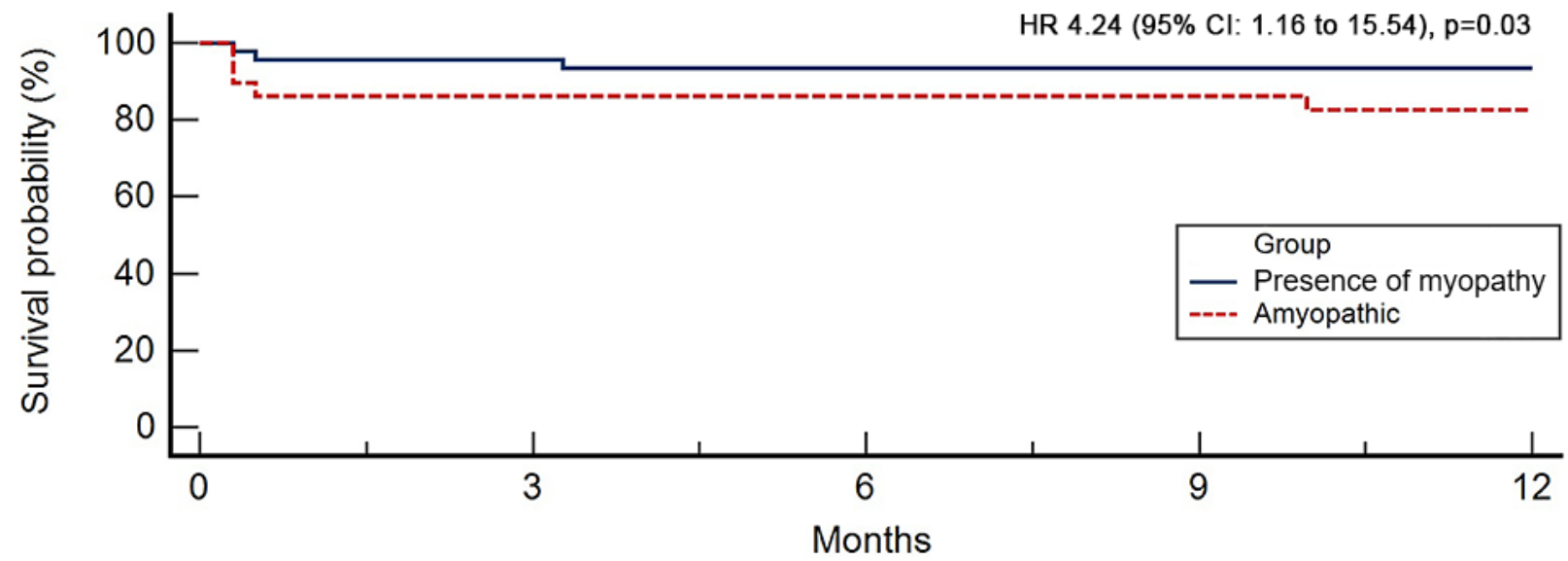
# 75 patients with myositis-associated ILD

## 4 centers – 2 countries (Greece-France)

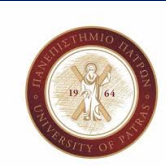


**Amyopathic 4 times worse prognosis  
Poor Clinical suspicion**

*Karampitsakos T et al- submitted*



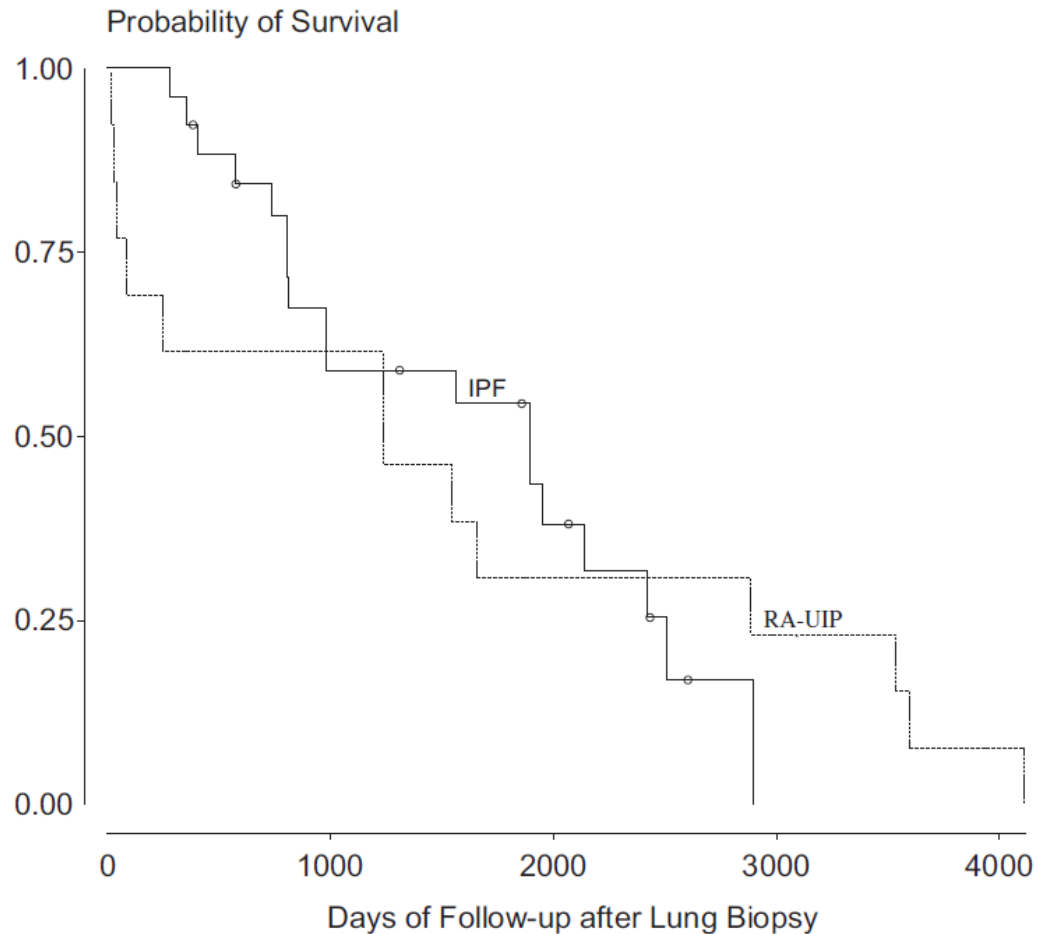
Number at risk					
Group: Presence of myopathy	0	3	6	9	12
	46	44	43	43	42
Group: Amyopathic	0	3	6	9	12
	29	25	25	25	23



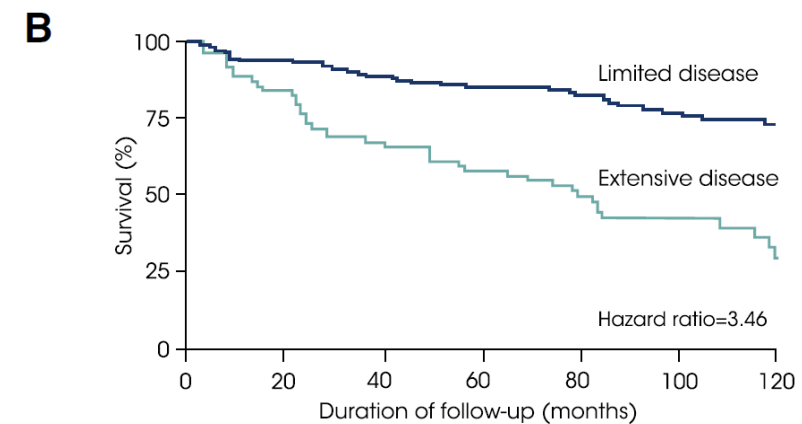
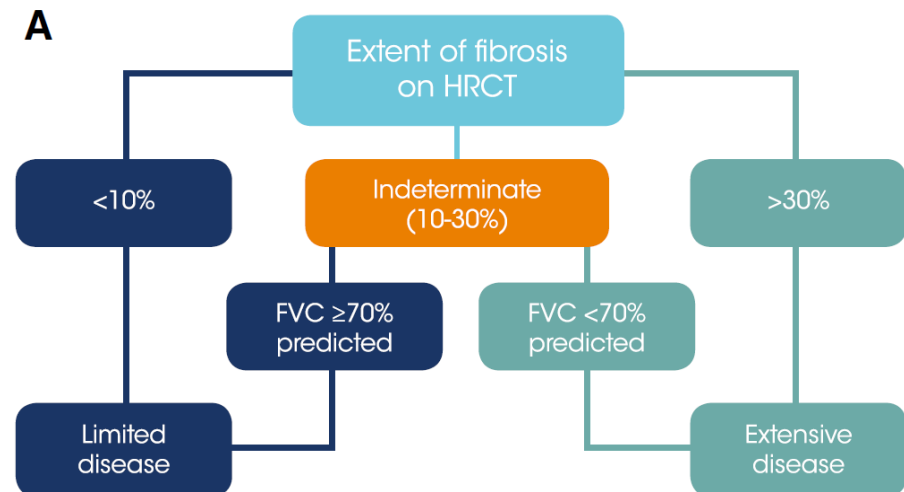
# L3: Identify who will progress?



## UIP pattern



## Extensive disease – Low baseline PFTs





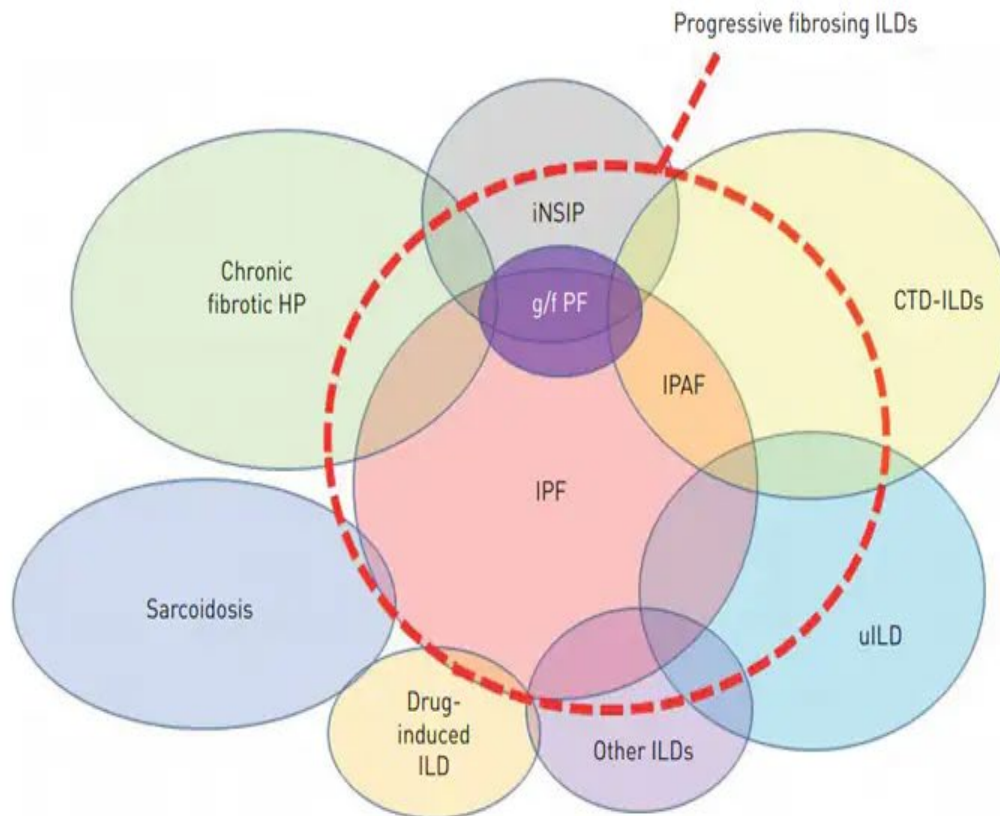


# Introducing the term of “progressive” disease



## Interstitial Lung Disease

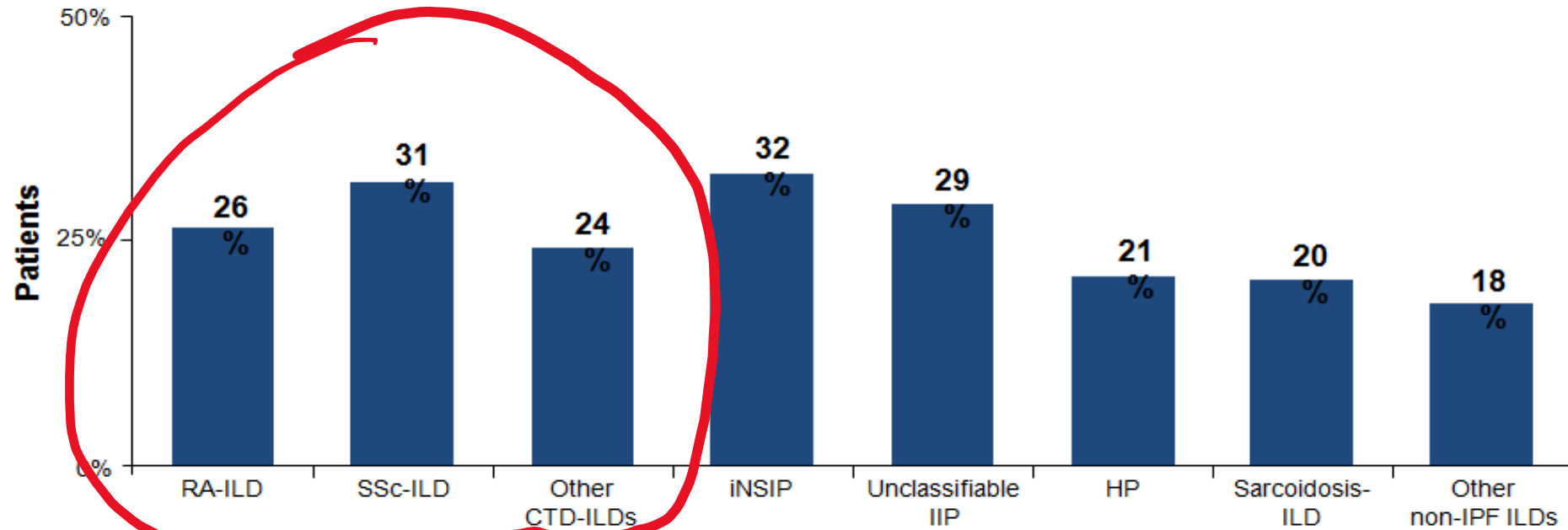
### ILDs That May Be Associated With Progressive Fibrosing Phenotype



Besides IPF, a number of other fibrotic ILDs exist

Despite appropriate management, a proportion of patients with these diseases will experience disease worsening called progressive fibrosing (PF)-ILD

# Up to one-third of patients with ILDs, including CTD-ILD, develop progressive fibrosing disease



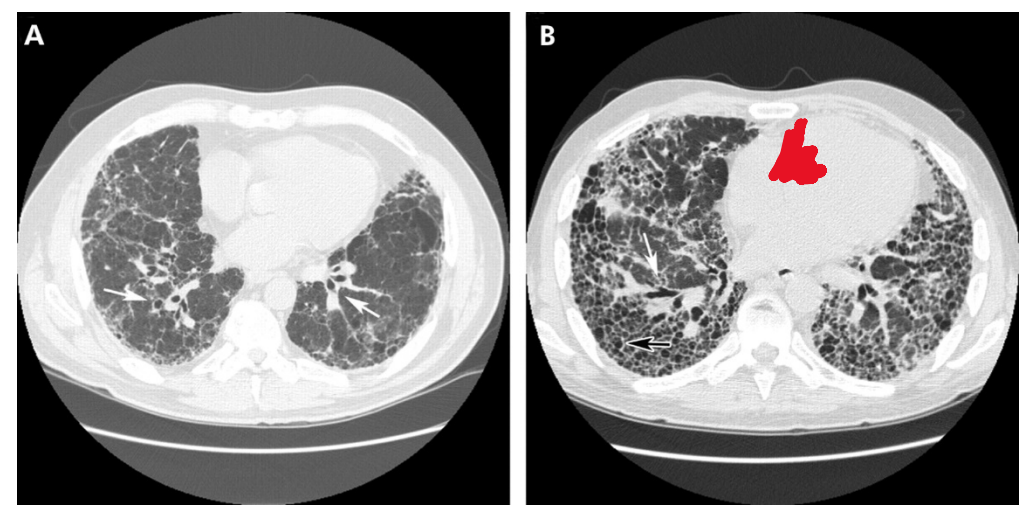
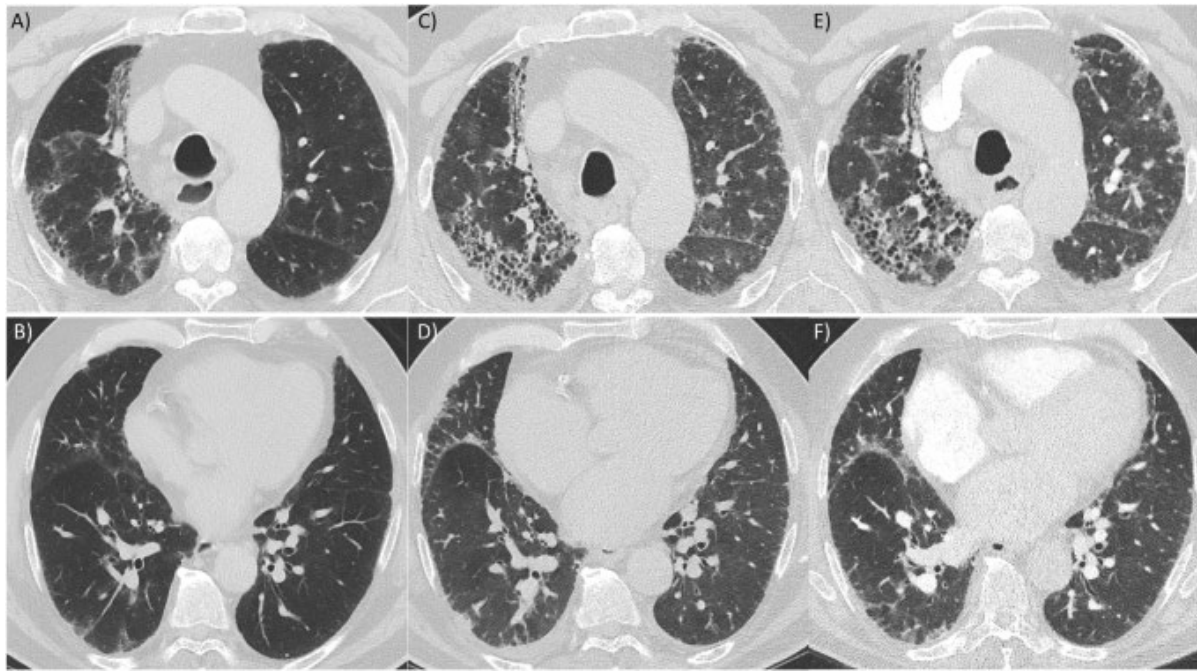
From a survey of 486 physicians who regularly managed ILD patients, it was estimated that 18–32% of patients diagnosed with non-IPF ILD develop progressive fibrosis<sup>1</sup>

1. Wijsenbeek M *et al.* ATS 2018 International Conference. San Diego, USA, May 18–23, 2018; abstract A1678

## Definition of Progressive Pulmonary Fibrosis

The presence of at least two of the following three criteria:

1. No alternative explanation for the worsening of respiratory **symptoms**
2. **Physiological** evidence of disease progression, (*Absolute decline in the FVC  $\geq 5\%$  pred OR DLco (corrected for Hb)  $\geq 10\%$  within one year of FU*).
3. **Radiological** evidence of disease progression



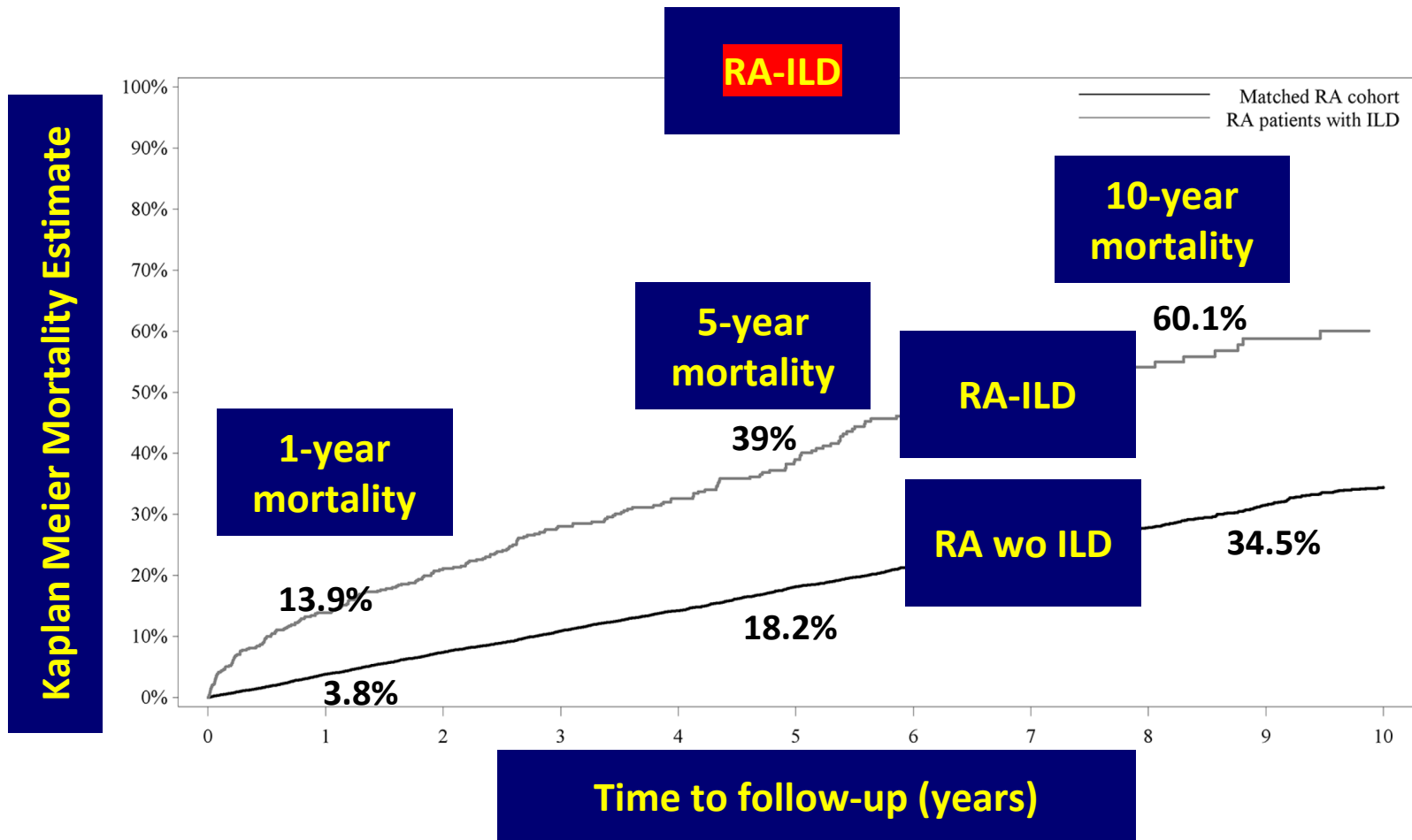
**Radiological evidence of disease progression (one or more of the following):**

1. Increased traction bronchiectasis and ✓  
bronchiolectasis,
2. New ground glass opacity with traction ✓  
bronchiectasis,
3. New fine reticulation, ✓
4. Increased coarseness of reticular ✓  
abnormality,
5. New or increased honeycombing, ✓
6. Increased lobar volume loss.



# Is ILD essential in autoimmune diseases?

- **YES!!!!!! – MAJOR CAUSE OF DEATH**





# Renal Crisis

Scleroderma renal crisis  
Diagnosis and management

Internist Academy  
2019

By Pauline Martins

### Epidemiology

- 5% of systemic sclerosis
- From 100 to 200 cases per million inhabitants
- Overall survival : 65% at 5-years

### Risk factors

- Diffuse cutaneous SSc
- Rapidly progressive disease
- Evolution
- Pericarditis
- Receptacles
- Positive poly
- Glucose

### Diagnosis

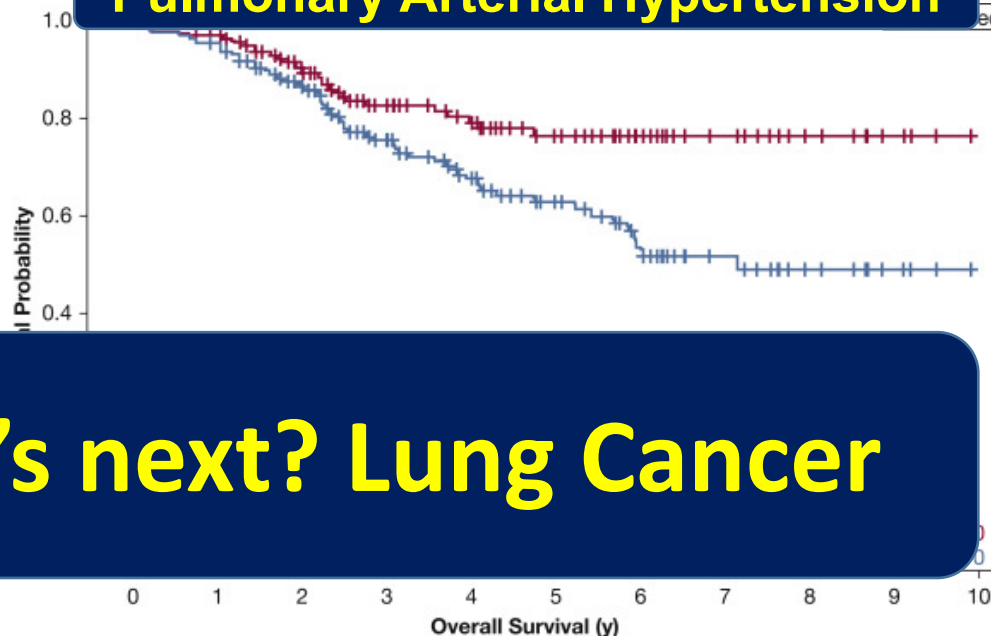
- De novo arterial hypertension of normotensive form +++
- Proteinuria  $\geq 2+$
- Hematuria  $\geq 2+$
- Thrombocytopenia  $< 100$  G/L
- Hemolysis
- Increased serum creatinin  $> 50\%$
- Signs of thrombotic microangiopathy

### Therapeutic management

- Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors +++
- If needed to control blood pressure: IV nicardipin/urapidil
- Avoid diuretics and  $\beta$ -blockers
- Discuss dialysis with nephrologist
- Renal transplantation : to discuss after 2 years of dialysis (possible late recovery)

Major cause of death in SCL

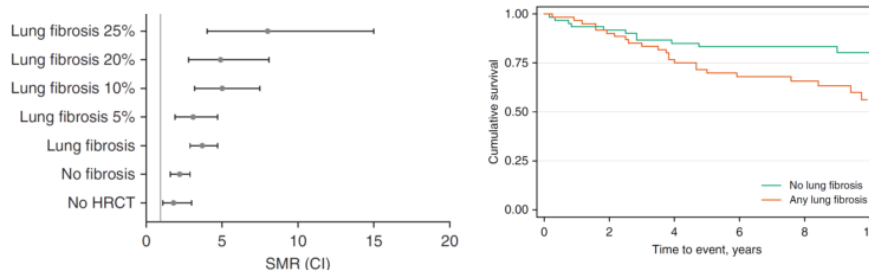
# Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension



# Following anti-fibrotics – what's next? Lung Cancer

Tracking Impact of Interstitial Lung Disease in Systemic Sclerosis in a Complete Nationwide Cohort

\*8 mortality rates if Lung fibrosis >25%



42% of deaths-1972  
6% of deaths - 2022

25% of deaths-2012  
15% of deaths - 2022

6% of deaths-1972  
42% of deaths - 2022

No treatment??

fatal<sup>3</sup>. Since the introduction of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, survival has greatly improved and the 1-year mortality rate decreased from 85% to 24%<sup>4</sup>. However, despite aggressive antihypertensive therapy, 5-year survival with SRC is only 65%<sup>5,6,7,8</sup>. In addition, exposure to certain drugs, particularly corticosteroids (CS), represents an additional risk factor for SRC<sup>9,10</sup>.

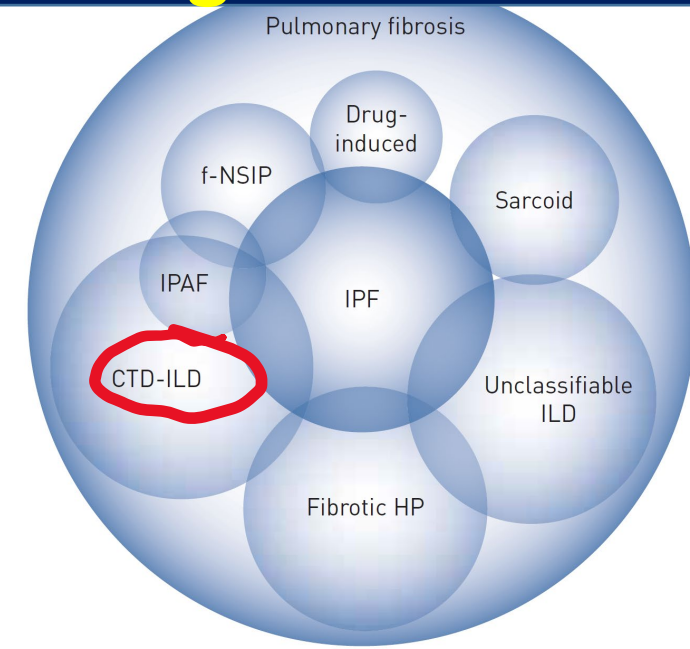
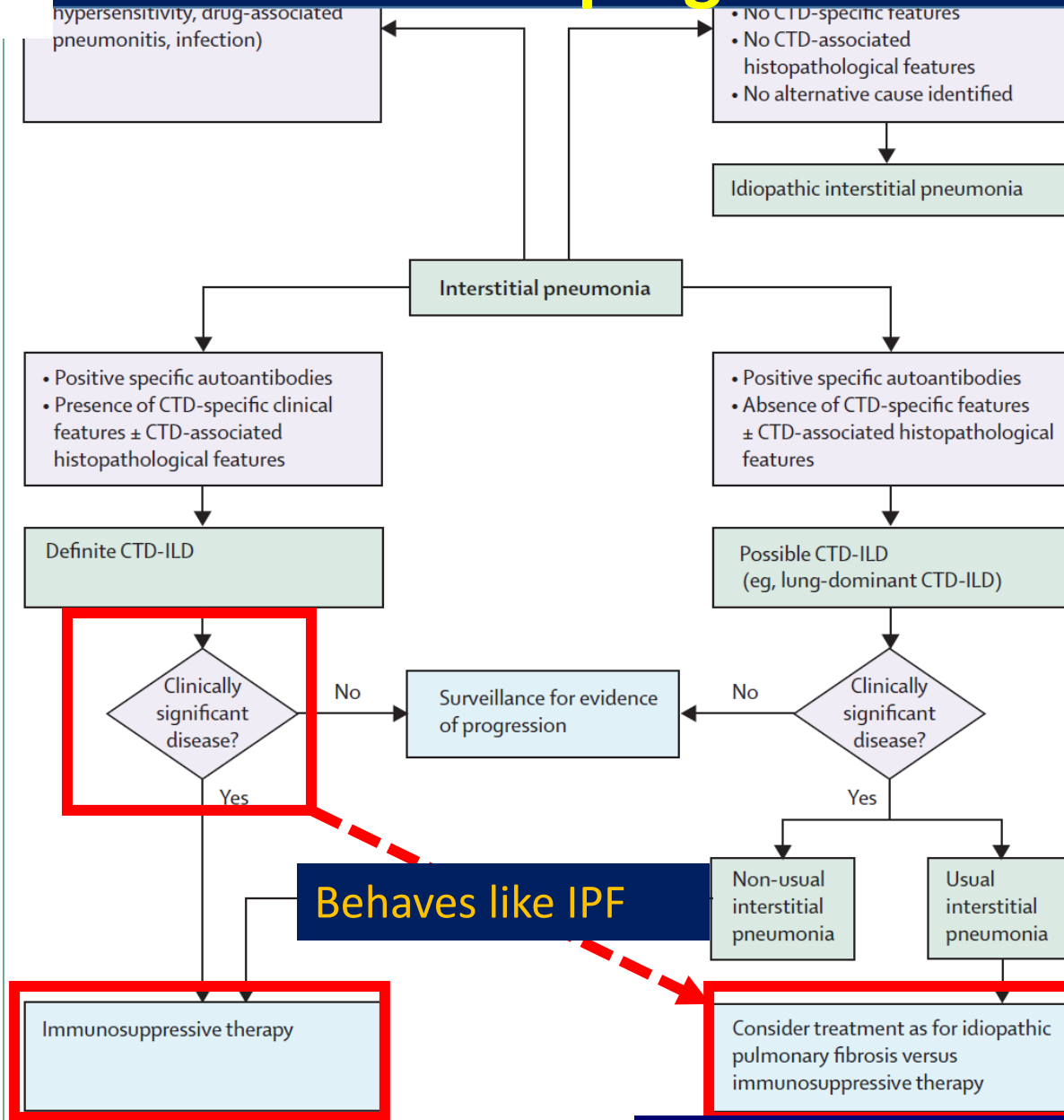
The Journal of Rheumatology 2014; 41:6;

## Current Targets for PAH Therapies



Adapted from Humbert M, et al. N Engl J Med. 2004;351:1425-1436.

# Lumping rather than splitting

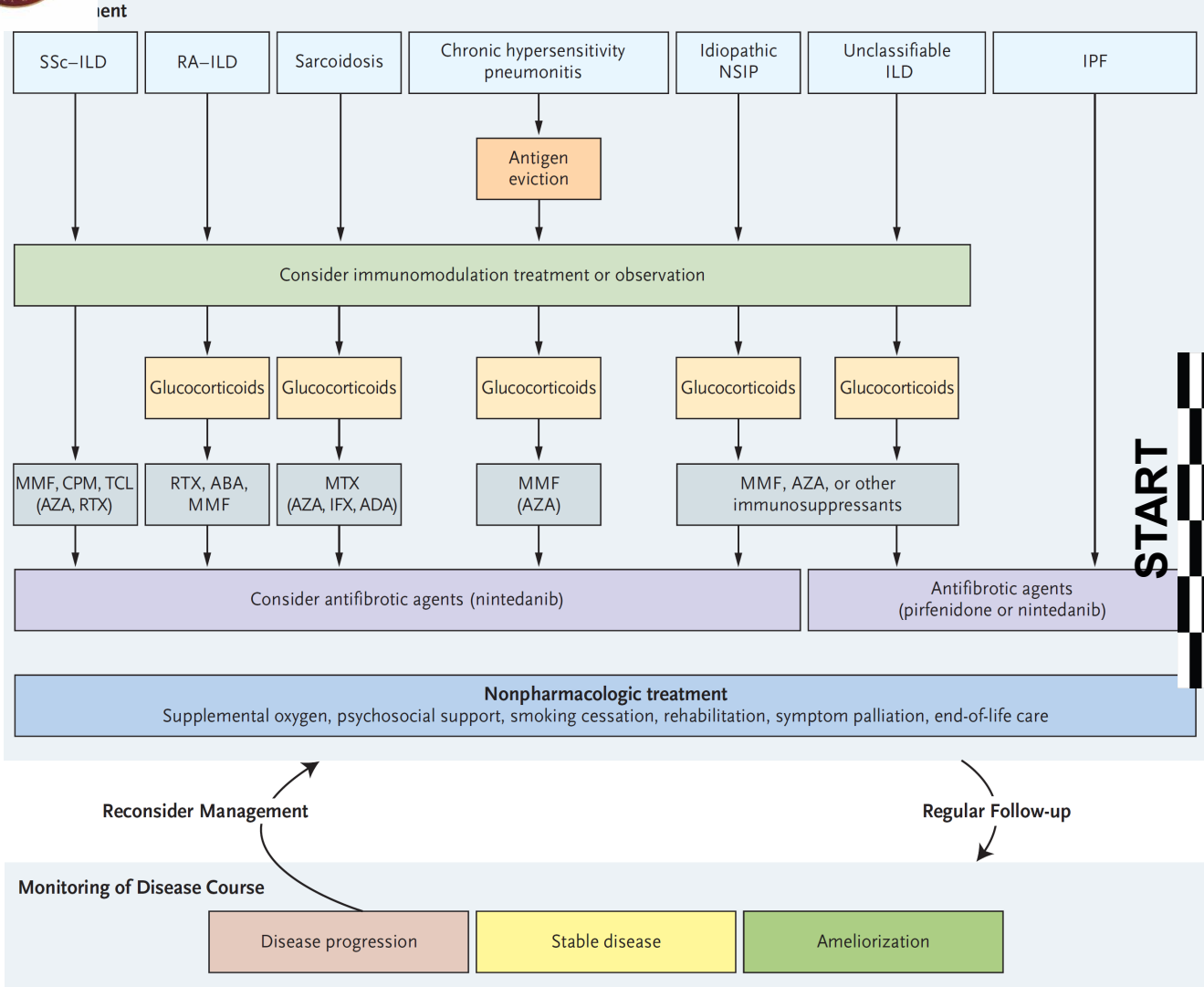


RA-ILD. Given the shared genetic background between idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and RA-ILD in general and RA-ILD with a UIP or possible UIP pattern in particular, we would propose that drugs that are known to be effective in treating patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis be evaluated in the treatment of RA-ILD.<sup>41,42</sup>

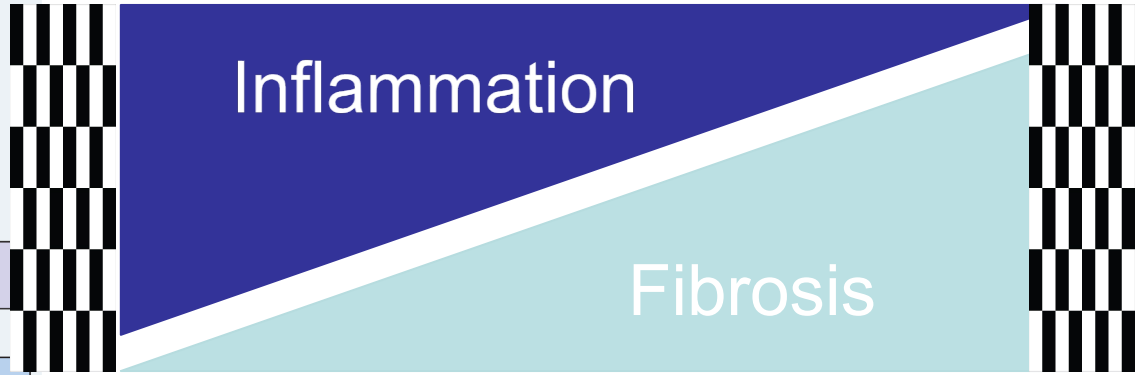
Figure 1: Management schema for interstitial pneumonia in CTD



# L3: Identify whether inflammation drives fibrosis



START



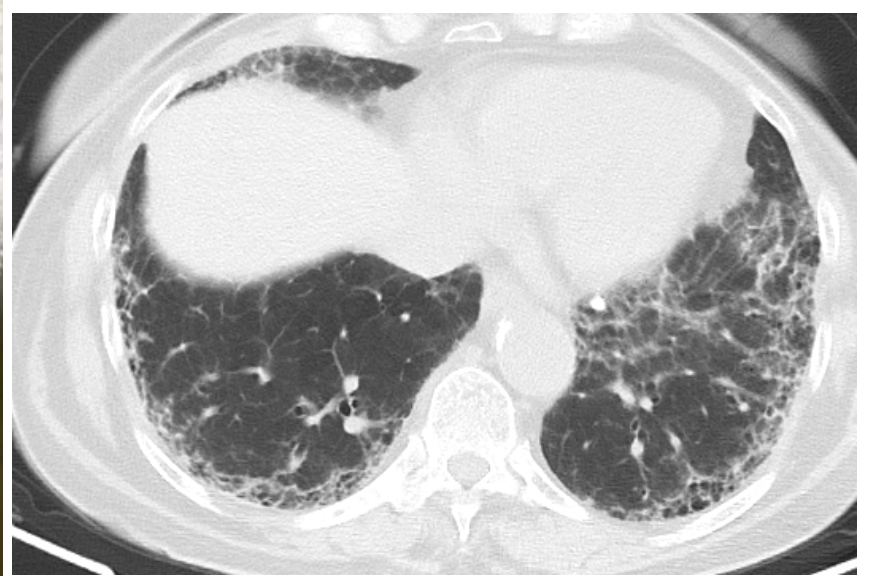
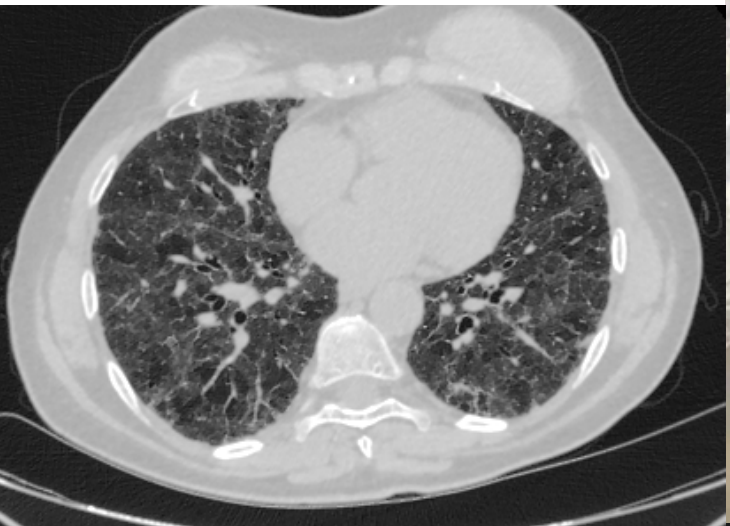
START





# Sometimes the answer is not that simple

*Who will respond to immunomodulation?*





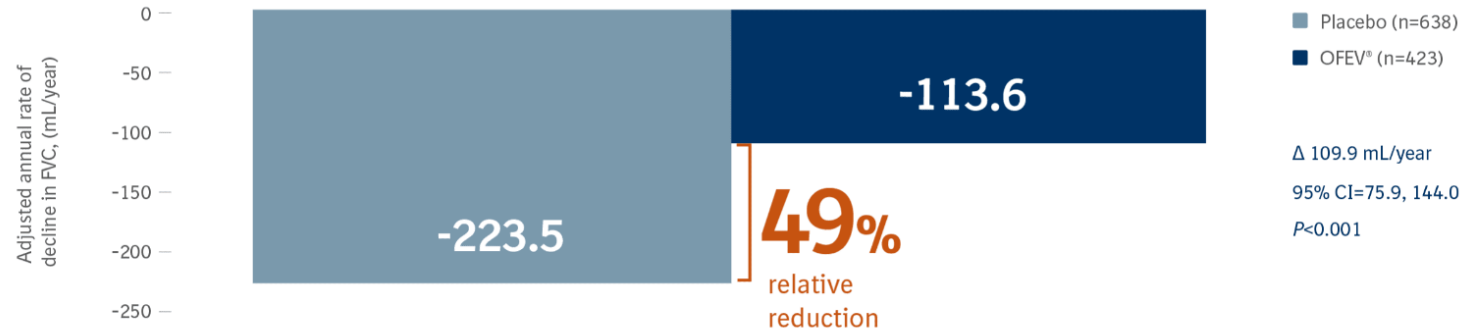
**What options do we have?**



# Nintedanib efficacy across PF-ILDs

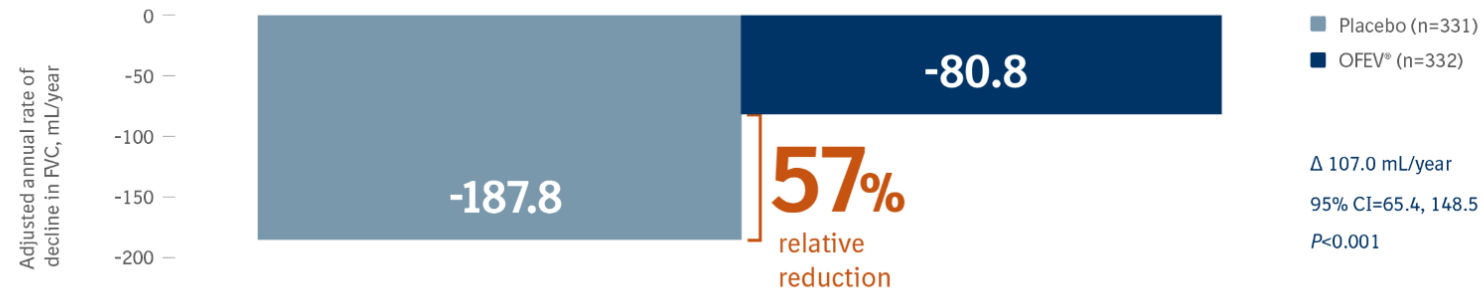


## INPULSIS<sup>-1 and -2</sup>



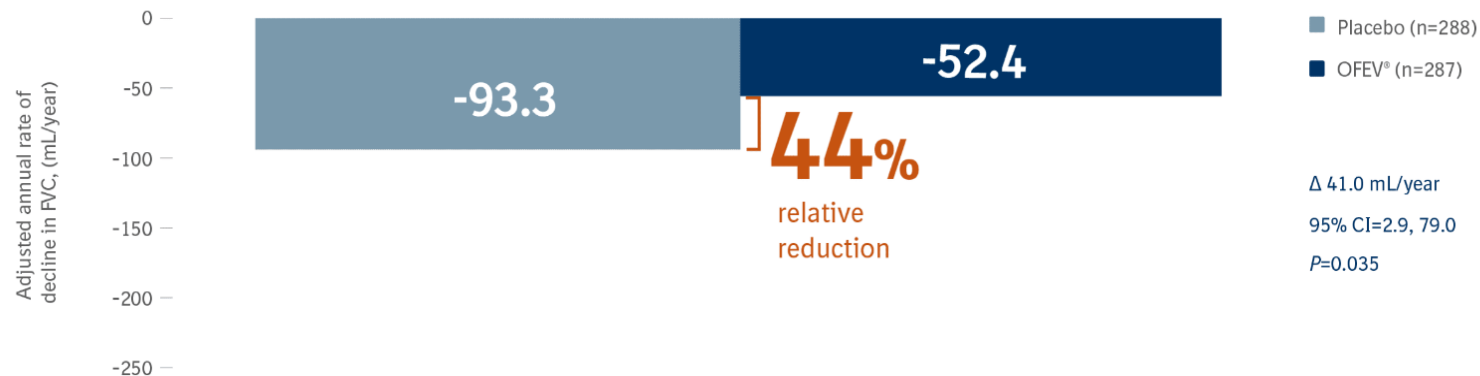
IPF, n=1016

## INBUILD<sup>®</sup>



PF-ILDs, n=663

## SENSCIS<sup>®</sup>



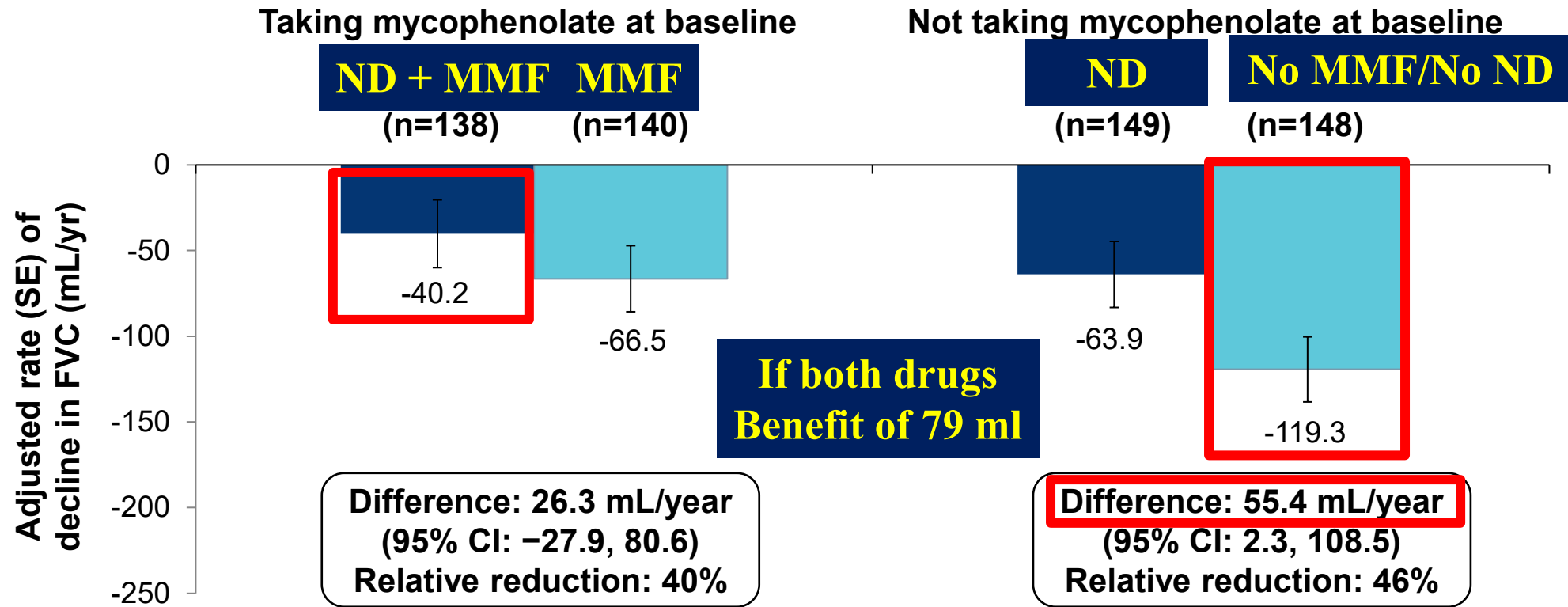
SCL-ILD, n=580





# Nintedanib is a Rheumatology Friendly Drug

## *Anti-fibrotics plus Immunomodulation...Synergy*



Treatment-by-time-by-subgroup interaction p=0.452

June 27, 2019

N Engl J Med 2019; 380:2518-2528

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1903076

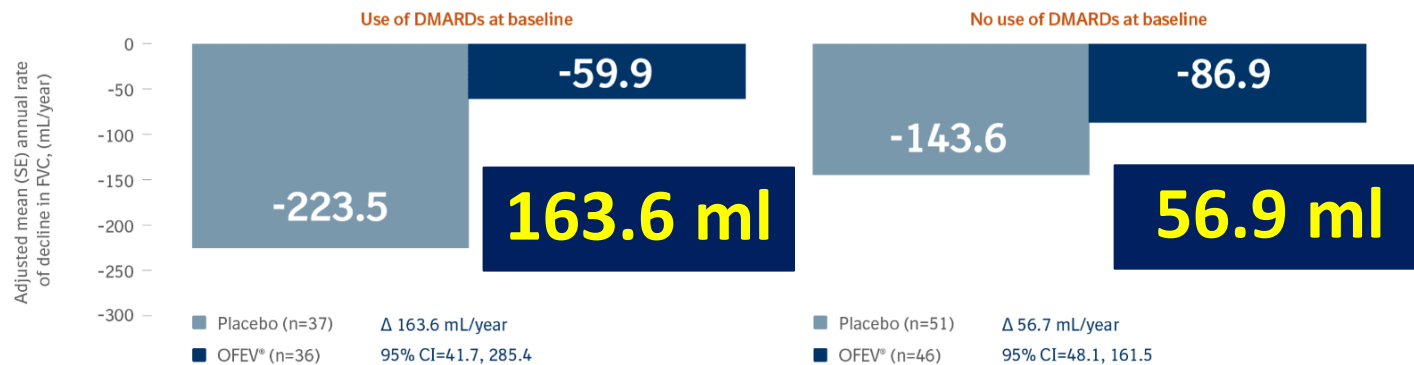


# Nintedanib in Progressive Fibrosing Interstitial Lung Diseases

Kevin R. Flaherty, M.D., Athol U. Wells, M.D., Vincent Cottin, M.D., Anand Devaraj, M.D., Simon L.F. Walsh, M.D., Yoshikazu Inoue, M.D., Luca Richeldi, M.D., Martin Kolb, M.D., Kay Tetzlaff, M.D., Susanne Stowasser, M.D., Carl Coeck, M.D., Emmanuelle Clerisme-Beaty, M.D., *et al.*, for the INBUILD Trial Investigators\*

## Post hoc analysis

### DMARDs and no DMARDs at baseline



Treatment-by-subgroup-by time interaction  $P=0.19$

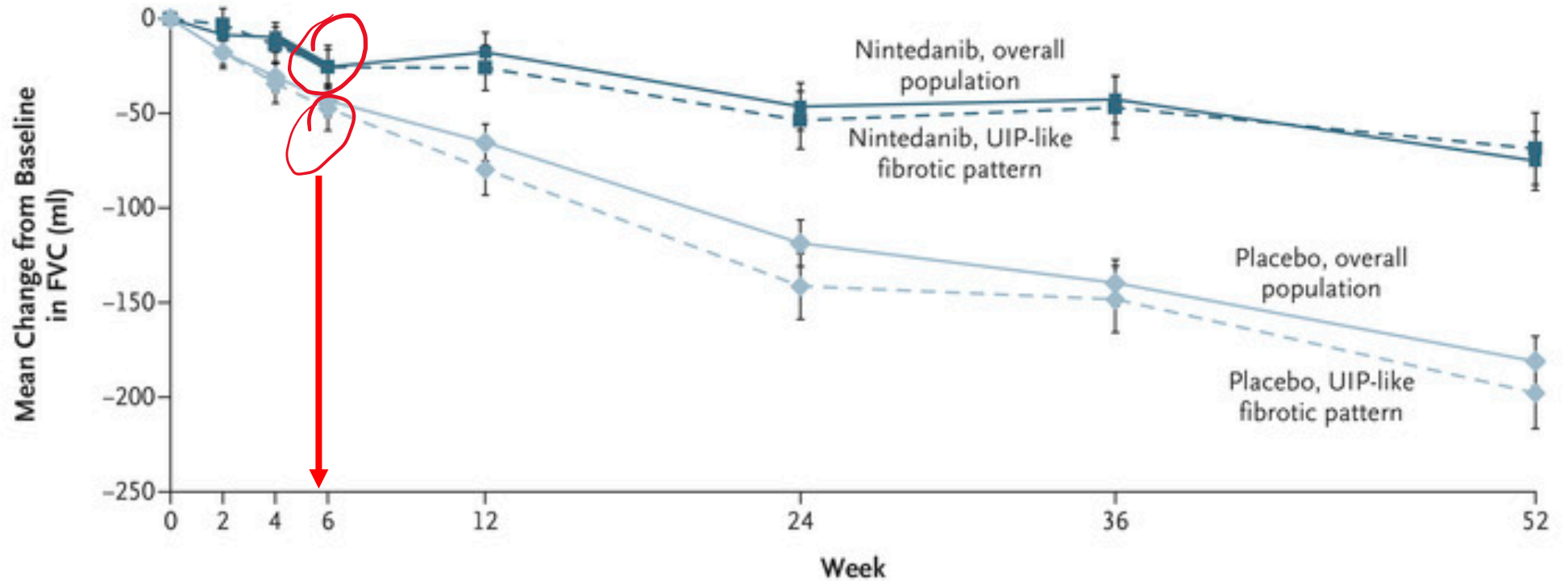
	N analysed		Favors OFEV*		Adjusted difference (95% CI)	P value
	Placebo	OFEV*	Favors placebo	Favors OFEV*		
Overall population	331	332			107.0 (65.4, 148.5)	$P<0.001$
UIP-like fibrotic pattern	206	206			128.2 (70.81, 185.59)	$P<0.001$
Other fibrotic patterns	125	126			75.3 (15.54, 135.01)	$P<0.014$

FVC	≤70% predicted	193	196		91.7 (37.4, 146.0)	$P<0.37$
	>70% predicted	138	136		130.0 (66.2, 193.7)	
Underlying ILD diagnosis in groups	Hypersensitivity pneumonitis	89	84		73.1 (-8.6, 154.8)	$P<0.41$
	CTD-ILDs	88	82		104.0 (21.1, 186.9)	
	INSIP	61	64		141.6 (46.0, 237.2)	
	Unclassifiable IIP	50	64		68.3 (-31.4, 168.1)	
	Other fibrosing ILDs	43	38		197.1 (77.6, 316.7)	



# INBUILD (PF-ILD) study – Functional effects at WK 6

## *Nintedanib exerts anti-inflammatory properties*



### No. of Patients

#### Overall population

Nintedanib	332	326	320	322	314	298	285	265
Placebo	331	325	326	325	320	311	296	274

#### Patients with UIP-like fibrotic pattern

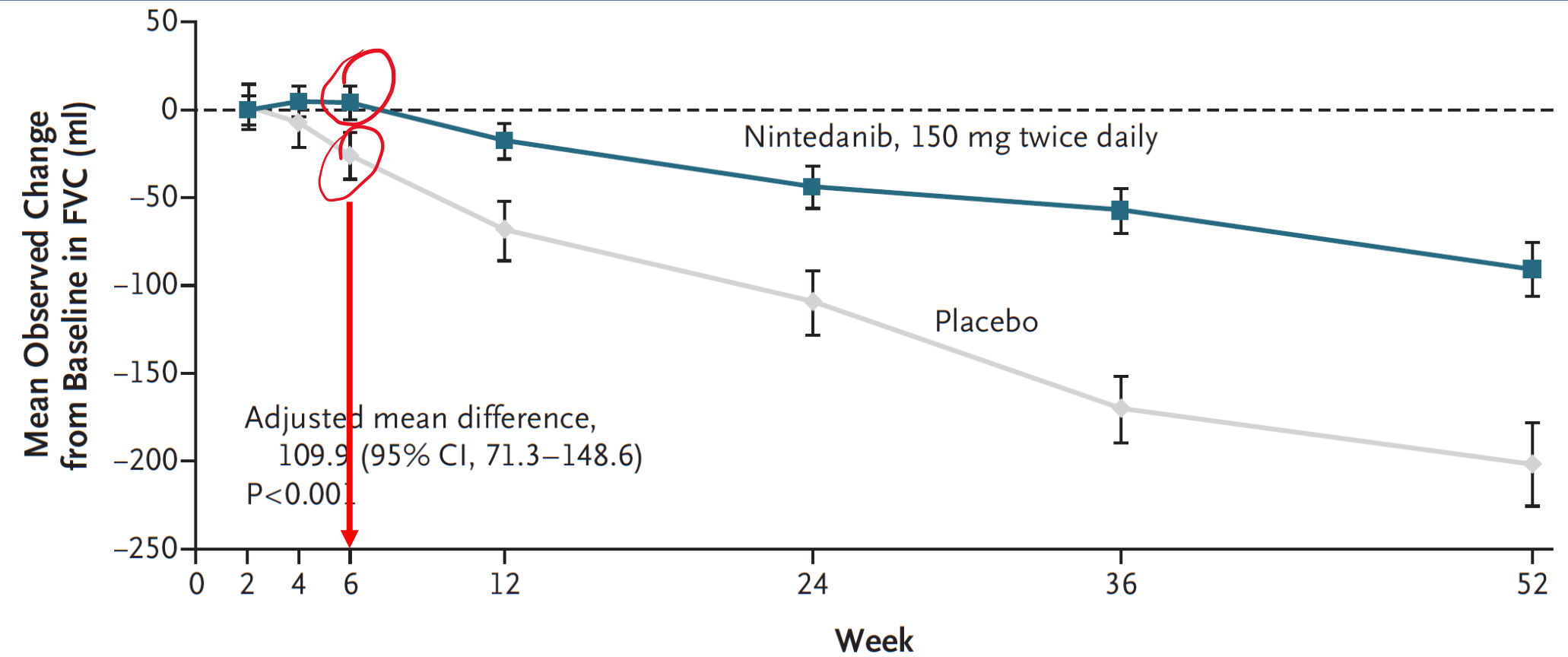
Nintedanib	206	203	200	199	193	180	171	160
Placebo	206	202	202	201	197	190	176	162





# INPULSIS (IPF) study – Functional effects at WK 6

## *Nintedanib exerts anti-inflammatory properties*

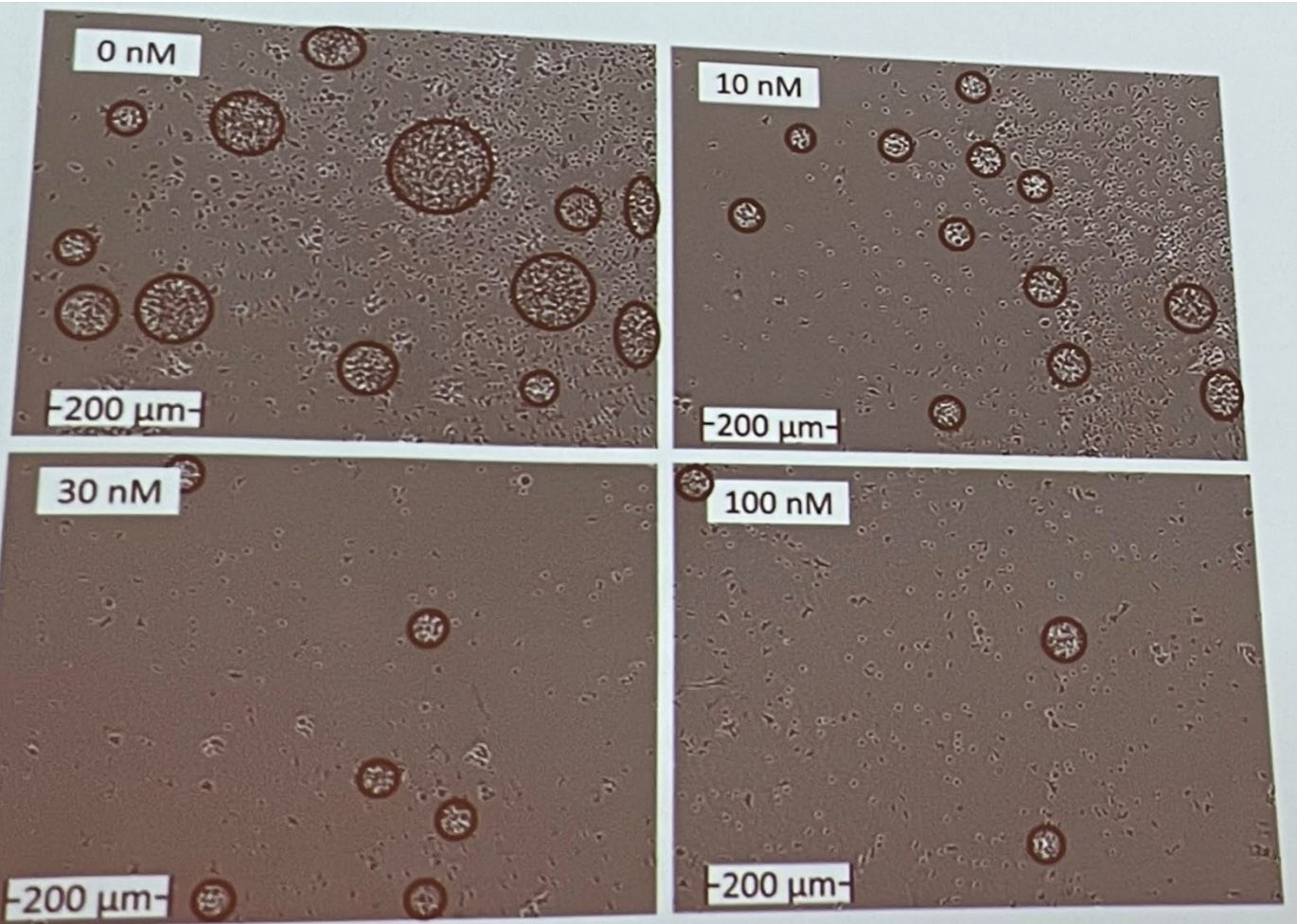


### No. of Patients

Nintedanib	303	301	298	292	284	274	250
Placebo	202	198	200	194	192	187	165



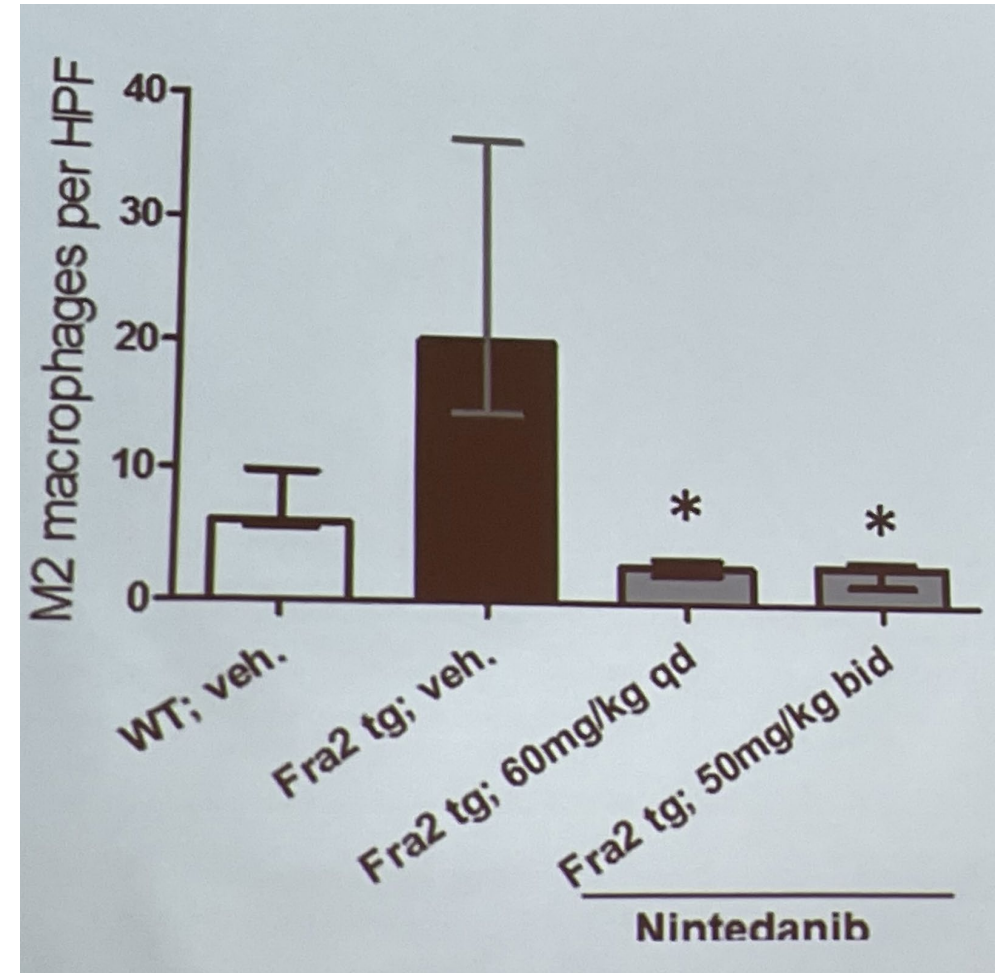
## Nintedanib dampens T – cell activity



Ubieta et al. Drug Design, Development and Therapy 2021



## Nintedanib prevents M2 polarization



ICLAF 2022 – Unpublished data



# Nintedanib suppresses citrullination enzymes in RA-ILD experimental models



## Suppression of epithelial abnormalities by nintedanib in induced-rheumatoid arthritis-associated interstitial lung disease mouse model

Yoko Miura <sup>1</sup>, Hirotsugu Ohkubo <sup>2</sup>, Akio Niimi <sup>2</sup> and Satoshi Kanazawa <sup>1</sup>

Received: 5 July 2021

Accepted: 19 Aug 2021

<sup>1</sup>Department of Neurodevelopmental Disorder Genetics, Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Nagoya, Japan.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Respiratory Medicine, Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Nagoya, Japan.

We examined the characteristics of a novel induced RA-ILD (iRA-ILD) mouse model and the effects of nintedanib on the model.

D1CC×D1BC mice are highly susceptible to arthritogenic antigens, such as bovine type II collagen, resulting in severe inflammatory arthritis. ILD develops after joint inflammation is alleviated. Serum surfactant protein D levels were monitored as an ILD marker. Nintedanib was orally administered to iRA-ILD mice for 2 months.

The iRA-ILD model showed similar symptoms to those in patients with RA-ILD. The histopathological features of pulmonary disorder resembled nonspecific interstitial pneumonia, but with metaplastic epithelium. Histopathological analysis revealed that in addition to reducing fibrosis, nintedanib suppressed M2 macrophage polarisation and hyperplasia of Type 2 alveolar epithelial cells. The metaplastic epithelium acquired invasiveness because of the expression of E-cadherin, MMP7, *Tgf-β*, *Col1a1*, *Padi2* and *Padi4*. Moreover, citrullinated peptides were detected in these invasive epithelial cells as well as in the bronchiolar epithelium. Administration of nintedanib reduced the expression of Pad4 and citrullinated peptides and eliminated invasive epithelial cells.

The broad inhibitory effects of nintedanib on tyrosine kinases may contribute to the overall improvement in RA-ILD, including epithelial abnormalities associated with progressive lung fibrosis.



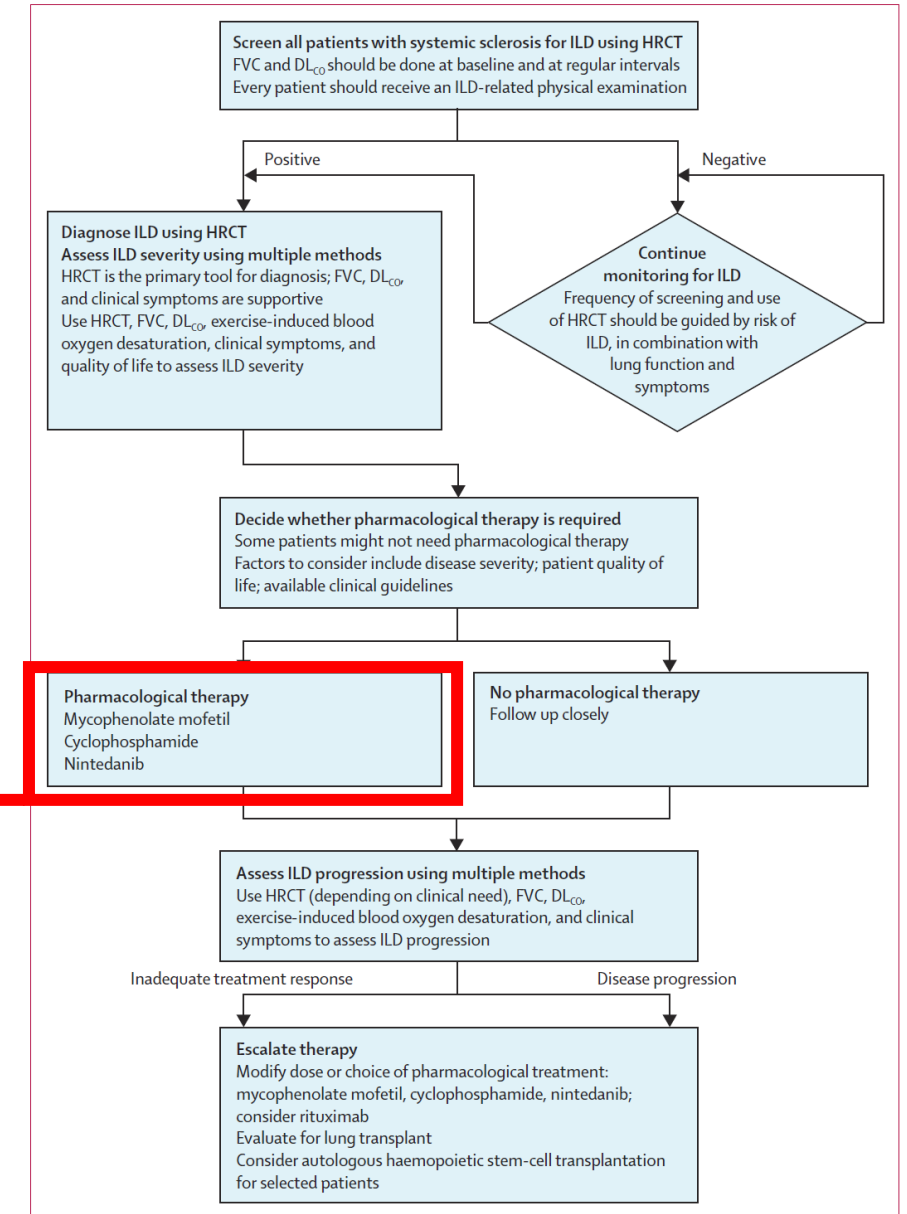
# The identification and management of interstitial lung disease in systemic sclerosis: evidence-based European consensus statements

Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold\*, Toby M Maher\*, Edward E Philpot, Ali Ashrafzadeh, Rafic Barake, Simone Barsotti, Cosimo Bruni, Paolo Carducci, Patricia E Carreira, Ivan Castellví, Francesco Del Galdo, Jörg H W Distler, Ivan Foeldvari, Paolo Fraticelli, Peter M George, Bridget Griffiths, Alfredo Guillén-Del-Castillo, Abdul Monem Hamid, Rudolf Horváth, Michael Hughes, Michael Kreuter, Florentine Moazedi-Fuerst, Jacek Olas, Suman Paul, Cinzia Rotondo, Manuel Rubio-Rivas, Andrei Seferian, Michal Tomčík, Yurdagül Uzunhan, Ulrich A Walker, Ewa Więsik-Szewczyk, Oliver Distler

Lancet Rheumatol 2020

Published Online

January 14, 2020



**Pharmacological therapy**  
Mycophenolate mofetil  
Cyclophosphamide  
Nintedanib

Figure 2: Clinical management algorithm for systemic sclerosis-associated ILD



# Guideline

## 2023 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Guideline for the Screening, Monitoring, and Treatment of Interstitial Lung Disease in People with Systemic Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease

The ACR is developing a new clinical practice guideline for clinicians who care for people with systemic autoimmune rheumatic disease who are at risk for or have been diagnosed with interstitial lung disease (ILD) (final publication of guideline anticipated autumn 2023).

- [Response to Public Comments](#)
  - [Public Comments](#)
  - [Project Plan](#)
  - [Disclosure Summary](#)
-



# Safety, tolerability, and efficacy of pirfenidone in patients with rheumatoid arthritis-associated interstitial lung disease: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 study



Lancet Respir Med 2022

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S2213-2600(22)00260-0

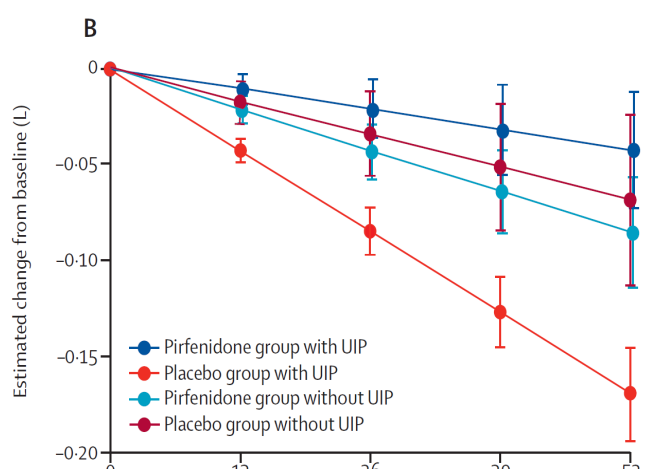
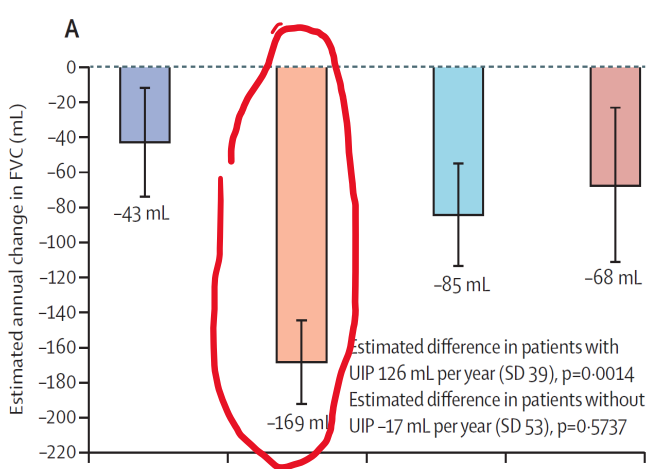
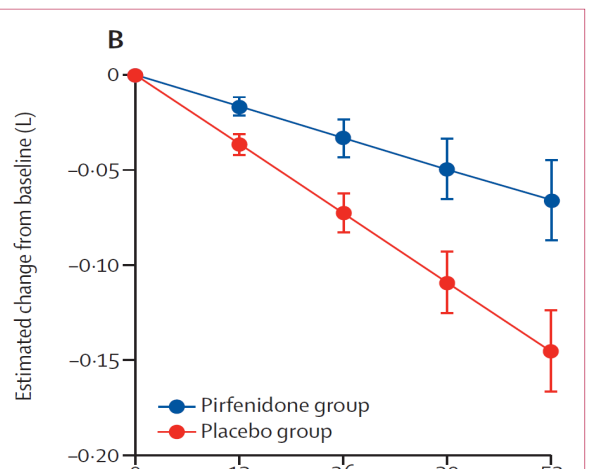
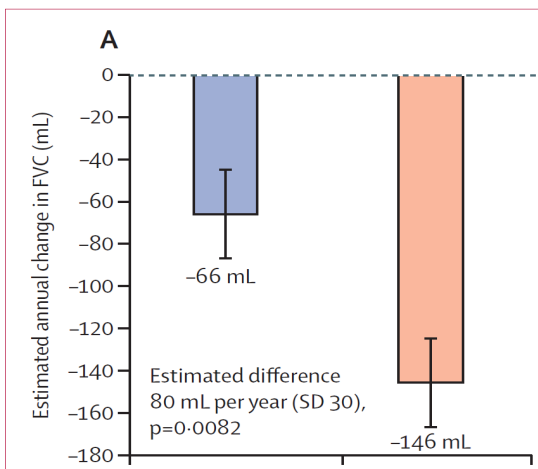
**TRAIL study**

**N=231**

Joshua J Solomon,\* Sonye K Danoff,\* Felix A Woodhead,\* Shelley Hurwitz, Rie Maurer, Ian Glaspole, Paul F Dellaripa, Bibek Gooptu, Robert Vassallo, P Gerard Cox, Kevin R Flaherty, Huzaifa I Adamali, Michael A Gibbons, Lauren Troy, Ian A Forrest, Joseph A Lasky, Lisa G Spencer, Jeffrey Golden, Mary Beth Scholand, Nazia Chaudhuri, Mark A Perrella, David A Lynch, Daniel C Chambers, Martin Kolb, Cathie Spino, Ganesh Raghu,\*† Hilary J Goldberg,\*† Ivan O Rosas,\*† for the TRAIL1 Network Investigators‡

**Design: RCT to receive pirfenidone or placebo**

**Results: Primary end-point -Negative– Incidence of patients with FVC decline >10% Pirfenidone resulted in 80 ml annual FVC benefit and 123 ml in UIP pattern**





# Tocilizumab improves FVC in SSc-ILD

## Tocilizumab in systemic sclerosis: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial



Lancet Respir Med 2020

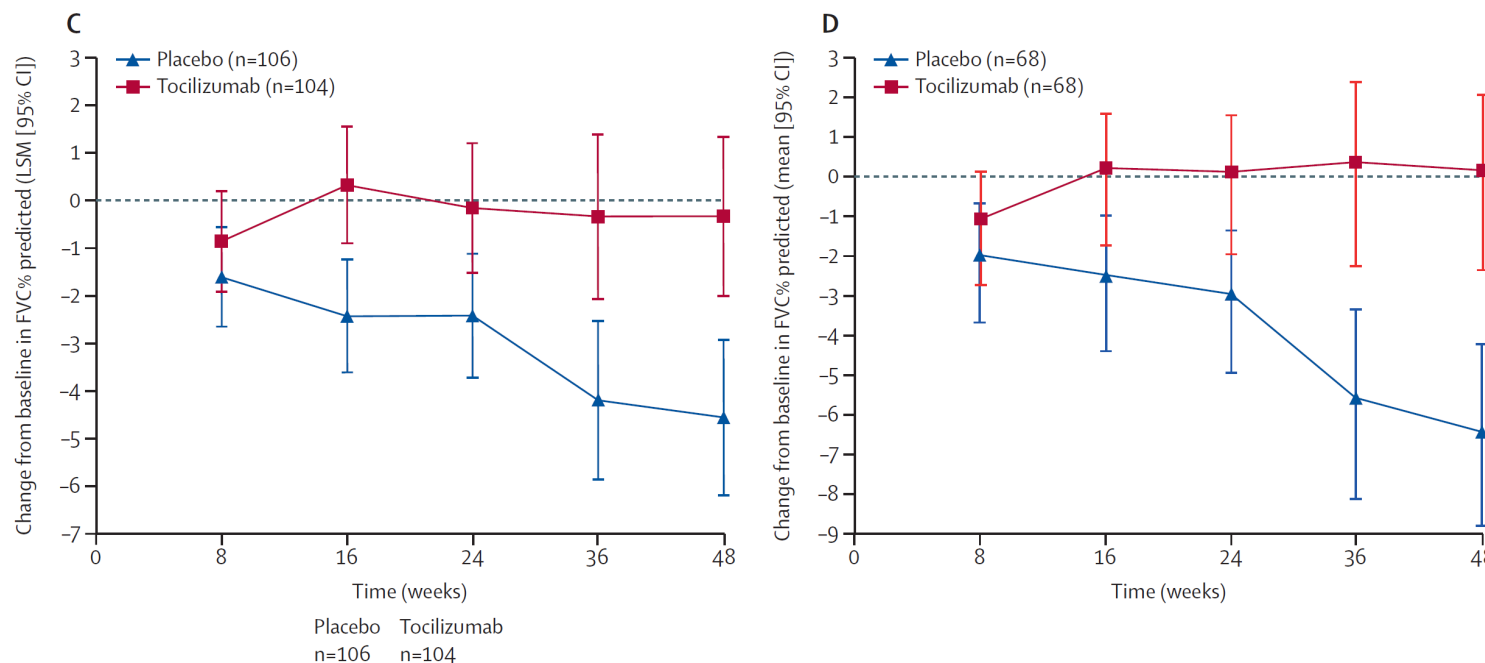
Published Online

August 28, 2020

Dinesh Khanna, Celia J F Lin, Daniel E Furst, Jonathan Goldin, Grace Kim, Masataka Kuwana, Yannick Allanore, Marco Matucci-Cerinic, Oliver Distler, Yoshihito Shima, Jacob M van Laar, Helen Spotswood, Bridget Wagner, Jeffrey Siegel, Angelika Jahreis\*, Christopher P Denton\*, for the focuSSced investigators†

**210 patients, mostly inflammatory component-NSIP**

**Interpretation** The primary skin fibrosis endpoint was not met. Findings for the secondary endpoint of FVC% predicted indicate that tocilizumab might preserve lung function in people with early SSc-ILD and elevated acute-phase reactants. Safety was consistent with the known profile of tocilizumab.





# Rituximab versus intravenous cyclophosphamide in patients with connective tissue disease-associated interstitial lung disease in the UK (RECITAL): a double-blind, double-dummy, randomised, controlled, phase 2b trial



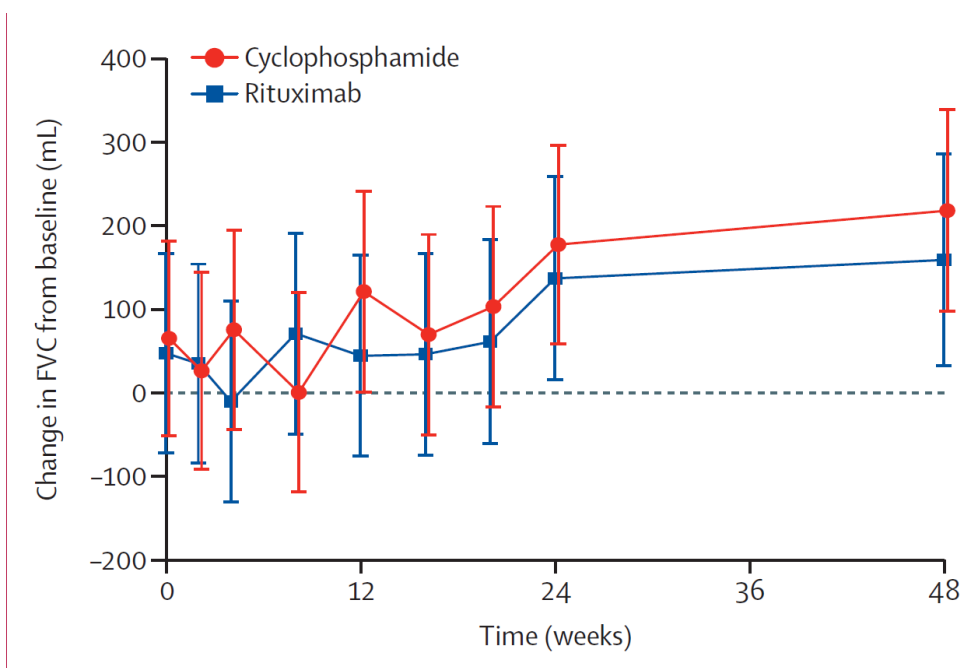
Lancet Respir Med 2023;  
11: 45-54

Published Online

November 11, 2022

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600\(22\)00359-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600(22)00359-9)

Toby M Maher, Veronica A Tudor, Peter Saunders, Michael A Gibbons, Sophie V Fletcher, Christopher P Denton, Rachel K Hoyles, Helen Parfrey, Elisabetta A Renzoni, Maria Kokosi, Athol U Wells, Deborah Ashby, Matyas Szigeti, Philip L Molyneaux, on behalf of the RECITAL Investigators\*

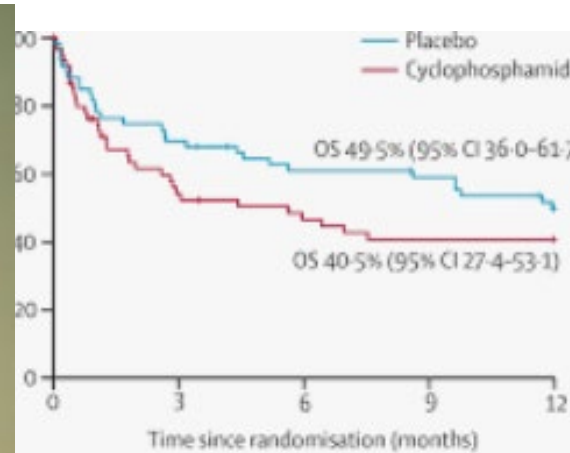


- ✓ 101 CTD-ILDs patients
- ✓ Mainly inflammatory (NSIP/OP) patterns
- ✓ 68% females
- ✓ Mean FVC: 73%, DLCO: 40%
- ✓ 99 ml gain in FVC – RTX=CYCLO
- ✓ 10 m gain in 6MWD – RTX= CYCLO
- ✓ Fewer adverse events and OCS exposure in RTX

## Connective tissue disease type

Idiopathic inflammatory myositis	22 (46%)	22 (45%)
Systemic sclerosis	19 (40%)	18 (37%)
Mixed connective tissue disease	7 (15%)	9 (18%)
Years since onset of connective tissue disease	4.8 (6.2)	4.5 (7.6)





patients were a  
and 119 patients (62 [52%] with severe IPF) received at least  
were included in the intention-to-treat analysis. The 3-month  
cyclophosphamide compared with 31% (18/59) in the placeb

## Interpretation

In patients with acute exacerbation of IPF, adding intravenous cyclophosphamide pulses to glucocorticoids increased 3-month mortality. These findings provide evidence against the use of intravenous cyclophosphamide in such patients.

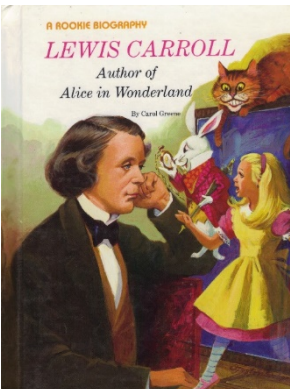
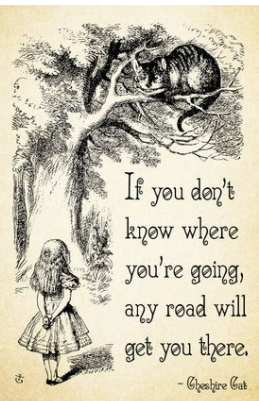
## What's in the box?



# Take home messages



- **Nintedanib can be efficiently combined with immunomodulatory agents**
- **Need to early identify progression**
- **Need to identify whether inflammation drives fibrosis**
- **Need to identify reversible – treatable - features**





**SAVE THE DATE**

# BRIDGES OF PULMONOLOGY 2023



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OF RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION OF  
RESPIRATORY  
DISEASES



DEPARTMENT OF  
RESPIRATORY MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS,  
GREECE

**JUNE,**  
**9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**  
**2023**

City of Patras,  
Greece

ROYAL  
THEATER



HYBRID EVENT