IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS – HAMMAN RICH SYNDROME

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Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a chronic progressive interstitial lung disease of unknown etiology, characterized by inflammation and fibrosis of the lung parenchyma. No specific pathognomonic clinical or pathologic findings are associated with IPF, diagnosis being established after excluding other causes of interstitial lung disease. Clinical features consist of progressive dyspnoea upon exertion, interstitial infiltrates on chest X-ray, and a restrictive ventilatory dysfunction. Open lung biopsy and video-assisted thorascopic lung biopsy are the criterion standards for the diagnosis of IPF.