PULMONARY FIBROSIS

What is Pulmonary Fibrosis?

Pulmonary Fibrosis develops when air sacs in the lungs become damaged or inflamed, which causes scarring to occur. This causes the air sacs to collapse and makes the lungs less elastic, which makes it more difficult for oxygen to be delivered to the blood. Pulmonary Fibrosis is progressive over time and currently there is no cure.

What Causes Pulmonary Fibrosis?

1. Occupational and environmental exposures, such as asbestos, metal dusts, fumes
2. Hereditary factors
3. Certain medications
4. Sarcoidosis
5. Chronic conditions (Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus)
6. Radiation therapy
7. In some cases a cause is unknown

What are the Symptoms?

1. Shortness of breath with exercise (usually the first symptom)
2. Dry cough
3. Fatigue or weakness
4. Discomfort in the chest or pain
5. Loss of appetite
6. Clubbing of the fingers and/or toes
7. Weight Loss

How is Pulmonary Fibrosis Diagnosed?

1. Complete medical and social history and physical exam by physician
3. Chest X-ray
4. CT scan of the chest
5. Bronchoscopy (lung biopsy)
6. Pulmonary function testing
7. Blood testing

What is the Treatment?

1. Use of Corticosteriods (anti - inflammatory)
2. Use of medications that suppress the immune system
3. Oxygen Therapy
4. Pulmonary Rehabilitation
5. Stay current on Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines
6. Lung Transplant
7. Follow up with your physician regularly

Treatment options vary among patients. Discuss with your Physician what treatment option is right for you.

Pulmonary Medicine of Dayton, INC