

# First appearance of IPF as a severe exacerbation

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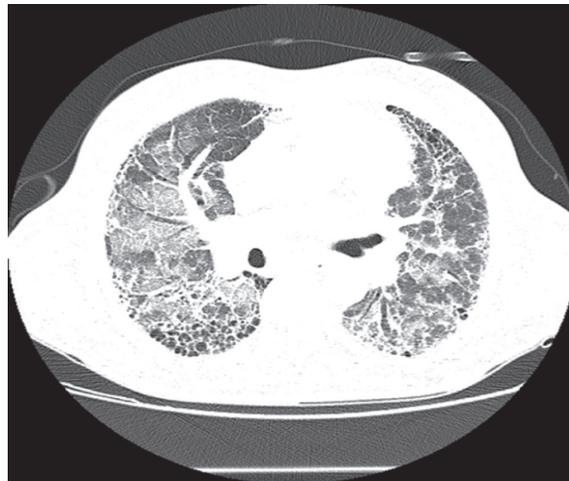
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A 65-year old man current smoker (70 pack-years) was admitted at Emergency Room with severe dyspnea, tachypnea, inspiratory crackles (Velcro) on chest auscultation, and severe hypoxemia which required a very high level FiO<sub>2</sub> to maintain a minimum acceptable saturation.

He hadn't mentioned occupational or environmental exposure to harmful factors. The patient was complaining of mild dyspnea on exertion during the last 3 months but it was not so severe to cause him to seek medical assistance and which progressively worsened in the last two weeks. Laboratory studies revealed leukocytosis. CRP and RF are markedly elevated.

**Key words:**

- IPF exacerbation



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