

# **An Evolving ILD**

**:Pleuroparenchymal Fibroelastosis**

# Contents



- 1** **Review: Lower lung predominant ILD**
- 2** **Review: Upper lung predominant ILD**
- 3** **Diagnosis of PPFE**
- 4** **Clinical and Physiologic feature of PPFE**
- 5** **Cases**

# 특발성간질성폐렴(IIP) 분류



표 1. ATS/ERS 분류에 따른 특발성간질성폐질환<sup>1</sup>

주요 특발성간질성폐렴(Major idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, Major IIP)

특발성폐섬유증(Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, IPF)

특발성비특이간질성폐렴(Idiopathic nonspecific interstitial pneumonia, idiopathic NSIP)

호흡세기관지염-간질성폐질환(Respiratory bronchiolitis-interstitial lung disease, RB-ILD)

박리간질성폐렴(Desquamative interstitial pneumonia, DIP)

특발성기질화폐렴(Cryptogenic organizing pneumonia, COP)

급성간질성폐렴(Acute interstitial pneumonia, AIP)

희귀 특발성간질성폐렴(Rare idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, rare IIP)

특발성림프구간질성폐렴(Idiopathic lymphoid interstitial pneumonia, idiopathic LIP)

특발성흉막실질섬유탄력섬유증(Idiopathic pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis, idiopathic PPFE)

분류불가능 특발성간질성폐렴(Unclassifiable idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, unclassifiable IIP\*)

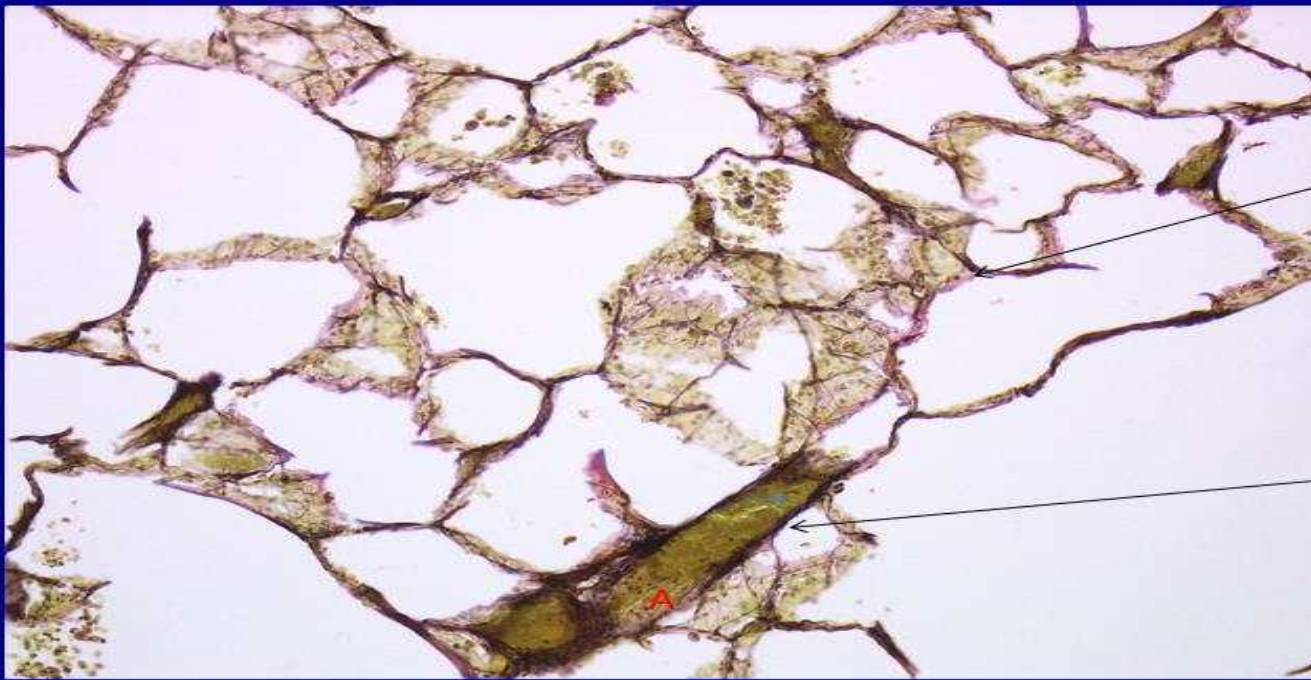
# Why does fibrosis occur in the perilobular area?



- Collection of venous and lymphatic drainage
- Single faced alveolar walls in the subpleural and paraseptal area

## Single-faced alveolar walls and double faced alveolar walls

Single-faced alveolar wall is located along the interlobular septa, blood vessels and bronchus and bronchiole, while double-faced alveolar wall



Double-faced  
alveolar walls  
(90%)

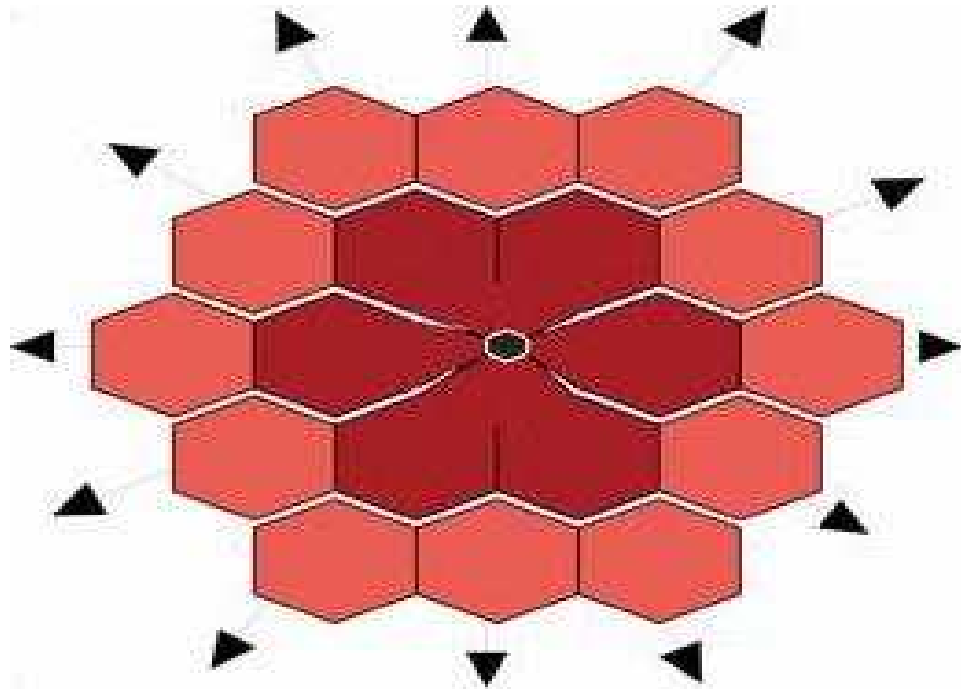
Single faced  
alveolar wall  
(10%)

A; Arteriole

# Why does fibrosis occur in the perilobular area?



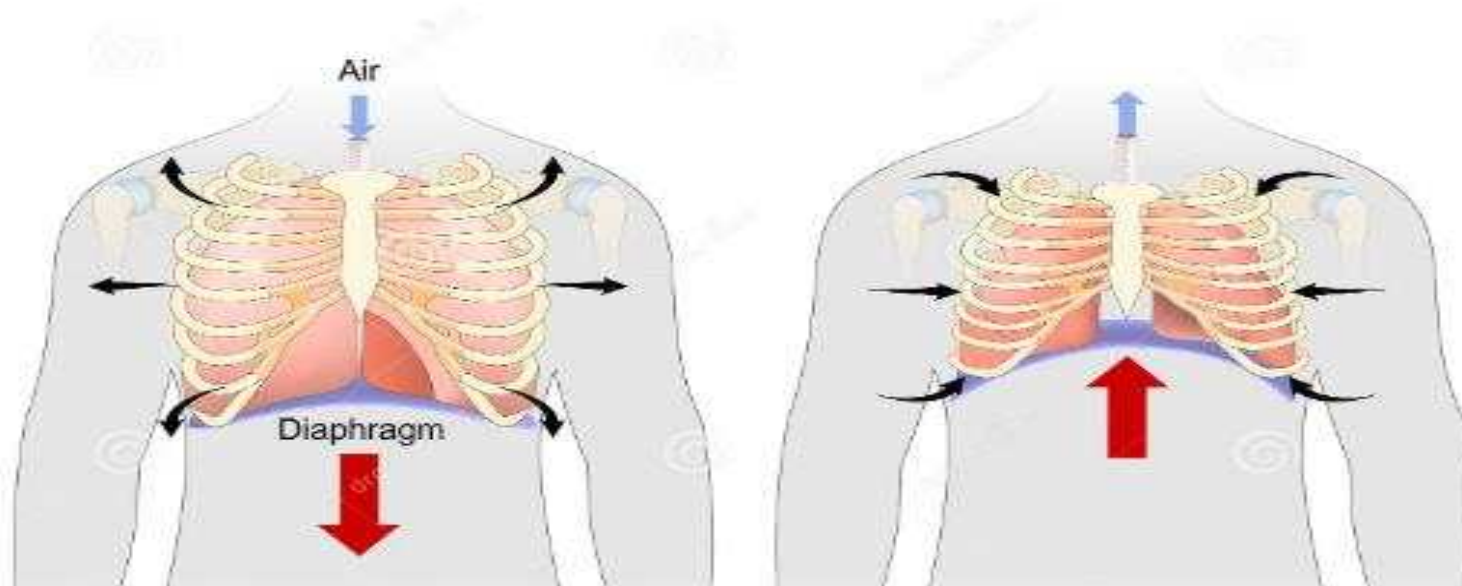
- Collection of venous and lymphatic drainage
- Single faced alveolar walls in the subpleural and paraseptal area



# Why does fibrosis occur in the perilobular area?



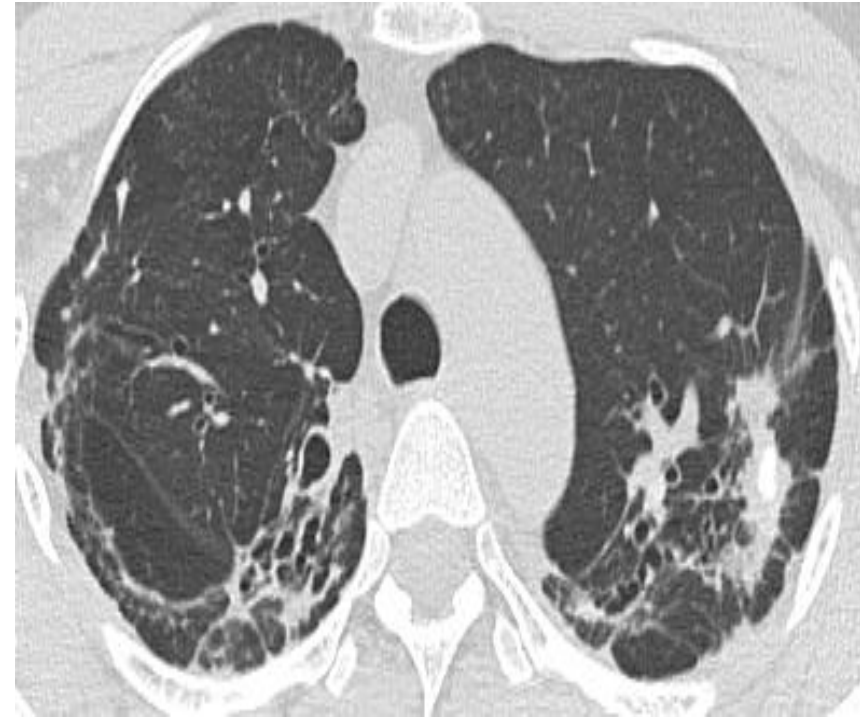
- Collection of venous and lymphatic drainage
- Single faced alveolar walls in the subpleural and paraseptal area
- Lung movement intensity at the diaphragm
- TGF- $\beta$  (vulnerable to pressure)



# ILD in upper lung field

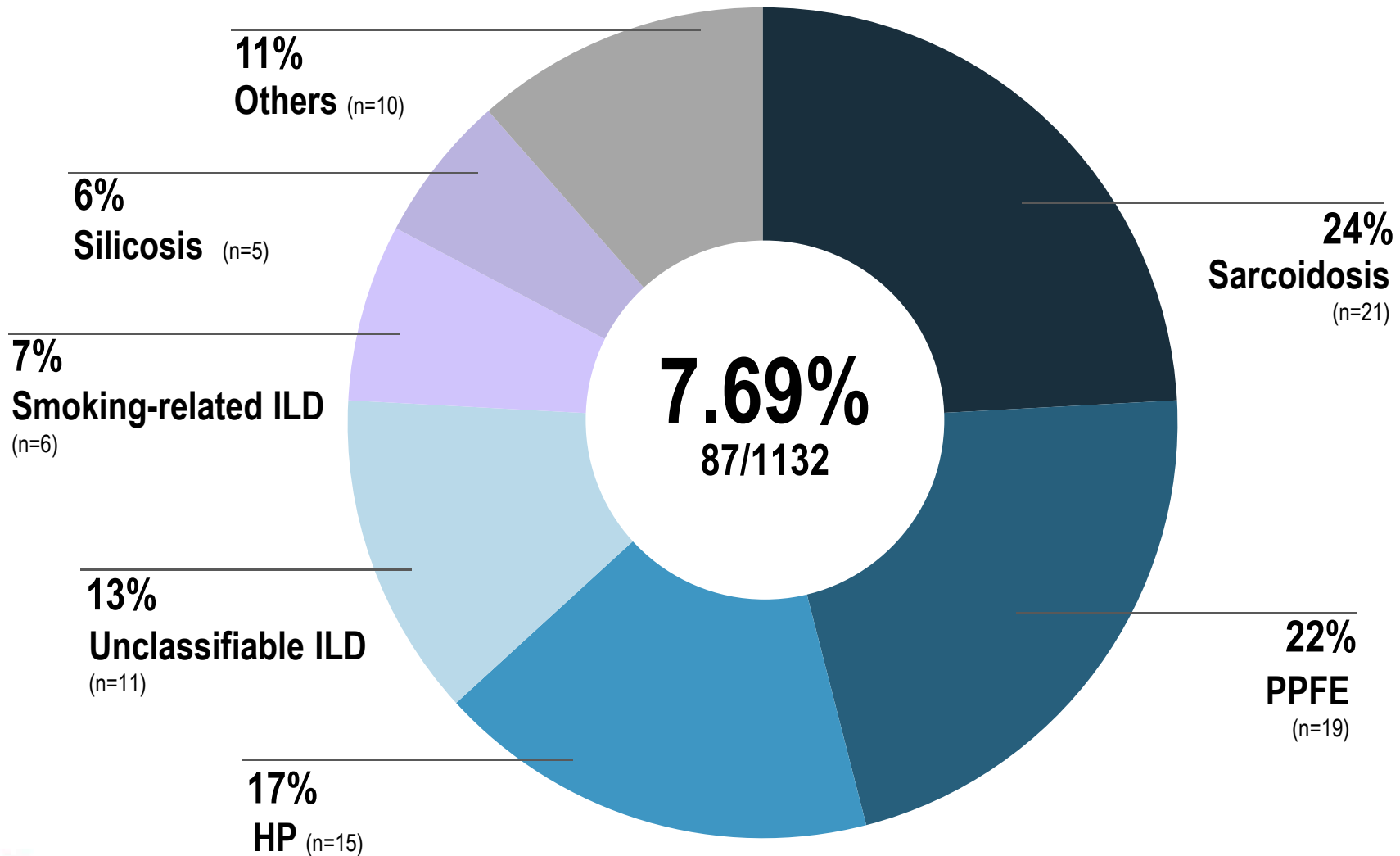


**Eosinophilic pneumonia**



**Sequelae of tuberculosis**

# Upper lobe predominant fibrosing interstitial lung disease



# Upper lobe predominant fibrosing interstitial lung disease



Upper lobe predominant fibrosing ILD (n=87/1132)	7.69 %
Sarcoidosis	24%
<b>PPFE</b>	22%
Hypersensitivity pneumonitis	17%
Unclassifiable ILD	13%
Smoking-related ILD	7%
Silicosis	6%
Others	10%

# Pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis (PPFE)



- Amitani's disease – Case series of Japan in **1992**  
(pulmonary upper-lobe fibrosis)
- First report in **2004** by Frankel et al.  
→ idiopathic pleuroparenchyma fibroelastosis, iPPFE
- Radiologic and histopathological criteria by Reddy et al. in **2012**
- Rare IIP in the international consensus classification of IIP in **2013**
- Predominantly upper lobe involvement with pleural fibrosis and subjacent parenchymal fibrosis

# Similar Disease Concept as PPFE



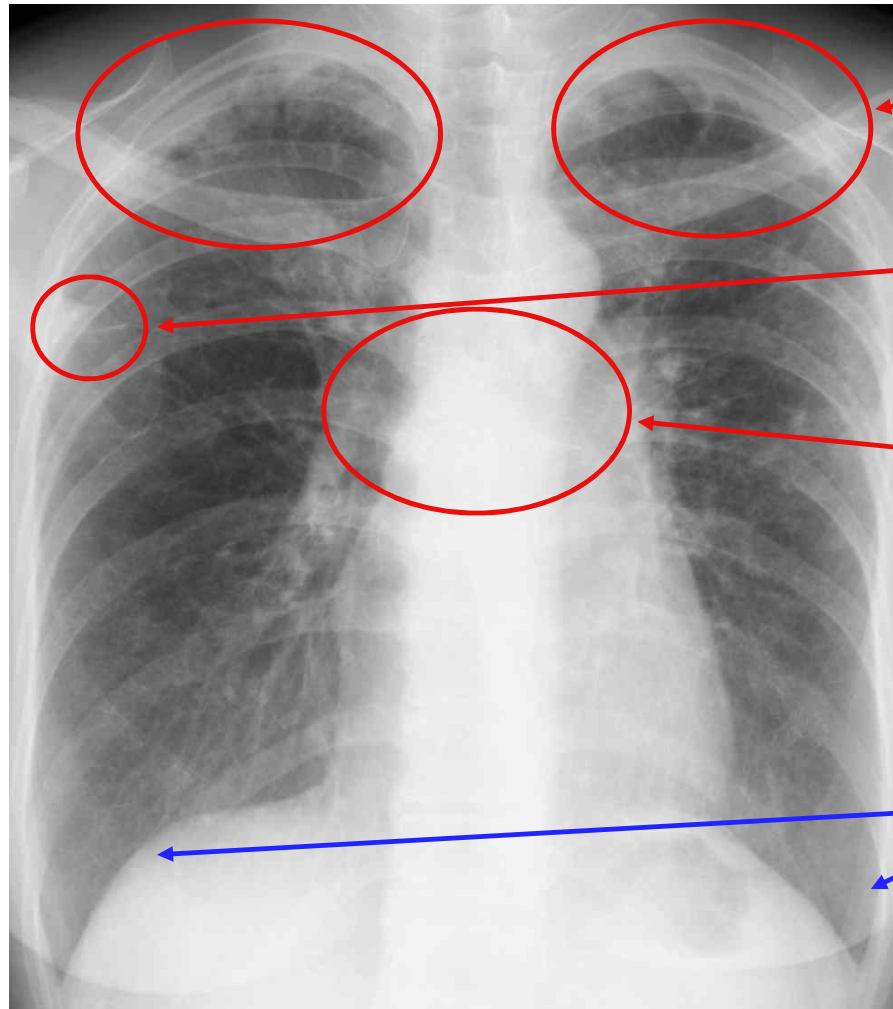
- Chronic idiopathic pneumonia (1962)
- Pulmonary upper lobe fibrocystic changes (1978)
- Upper lobe fibrosis and cavitation (1980)
- pulmonary apical fibrocystic disease (1981)
- idiopathic progressive pleuropulmonary fibrosis (1984)
- Apical pulmonary fibrosis (1988)
- Idiopathic pulmonary upper lobe fibrosis (1992)
- Marked pulmonary fibrosis in the upper lobe (1999)
- Upper lobe fibrosis (2003, 2005)
- PPFE (2004)
- Upper lobe-dominant pulmonary fibrosis (2010)

# Diagnostic Criteria



Category	Histopathology	High-Resolution Computed Tomography
Definite PPFE	Upper zone pleural fibrosis with subjacent Intra-alveolar fibrosis accompanied by alveolar septal elastosis	Pleural thickening with associated sub-pleural fibrosis concentrated in the upper lobes with less marked or no lower lobe involvement
Consistent with PPFE	Intra-alveolar fibrosis present but 1) not accompanied by significant pleural fibrosis, 2) not predominantly sub-pleural, or 3) not present in an upper lobe biopsy	Upper lobe pleural thickening with associated sub-pleural fibrosis but 1) distribution not concentrated in the upper lobes or 2) with features of coexistent disease elsewhere
Inconsistent with PPFE	Absence of features in “definite PPFE” and “consistent with PPFE” categories	Absence of features in “definite PPFE” and “consistent with PPFE” categories

# Chest radiograph image of PPFE



Bilateral apical irregular subpleural thickening

Interlobar pleura elevation

Hilar retraction upwards

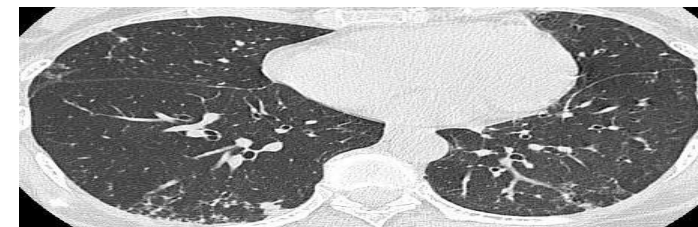
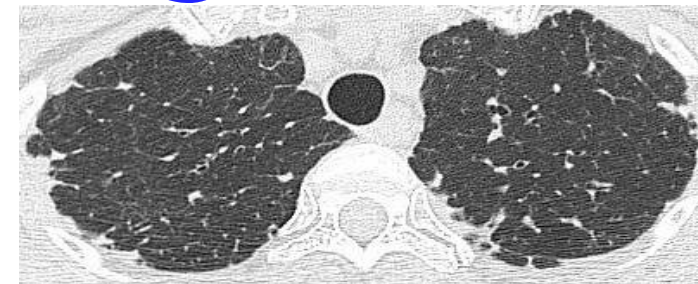
With involvement of lower lobes being less marked or absent

Upper lobe volume loss

# Chest CT image of PPFE



dense pleural thickening subpleural consolidation

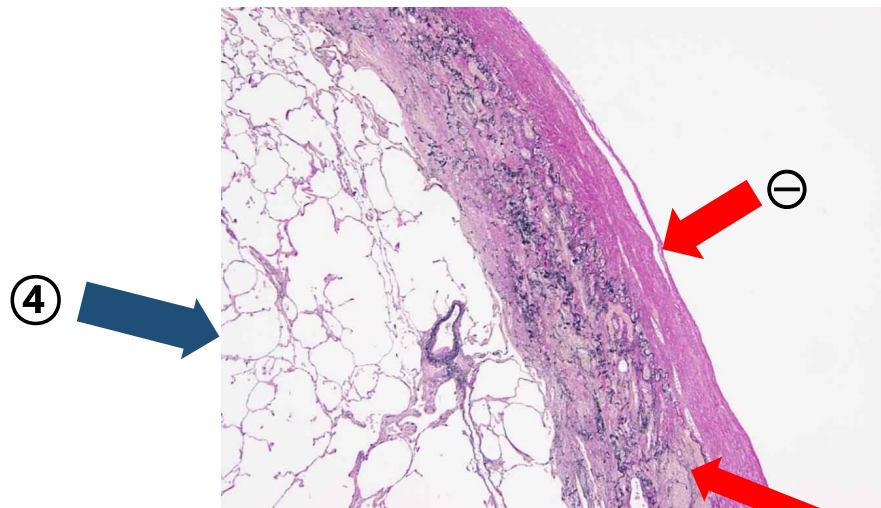


# Histological features of PPFE

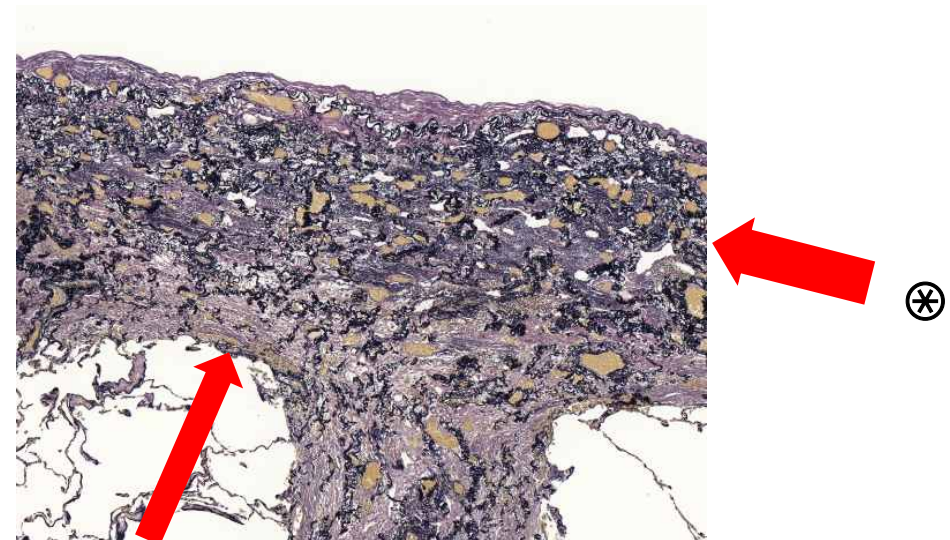


- major
- ⊖ Pleural fibrosis (±)
  - ⊖ Subpleural intra-alveolar fibrosis (purple, pink)
  - ⊗ Band-like aggregate of elastic fibers (black)

- ④ Sparing of the parenchyma distant from the pleura
- ⑤ Small number of fibroblastic foci



Hematoxylin eosin stain



Elastica van Gieson stain

# Clinical and Physiologic feature of PPFE



- Prevalence: Unknown (5.9% ~ 7.7% from ILD cohort, 7.5% after lung transplantation)
- Common symptoms: dry cough, exertional dyspnea
- Unrelated to smoking and sex
- Familial link: up to 57%, more common than other ILD
- Genetic mutation: TERC (telomerase reverse transcriptase), TERT(telomere reverse RNA composition)

Characteristic	Total	PPFE	No PPFE	P-value
Number of subjects	445	28	417	
Pneumomediastinum	25 (5.6)	6 (21.4)	19 (4.6)	<0.001
Pneumothorax	20 (4.5)	5 (17.9)	15 (3.6)	<0.001
Pneumothorax or pneumomediastinum	42 (9.4)	9 (32.1)	33 (7.9)	<0.001
Pneumonia	62 (13.9)	6 (21.4)	56 (13.4)	0.237
Acute exacerbation	78 (17.5)	5 (17.9)	73 (17.5)	0.962
Lung cancer	6 (1.3)	0	6 (1.4)	0.523
PTE	6 (1.3)	0	6 (1.4)	0.523
PHT	118 (26.5)	6 (21.4)	112 (26.9)	0.529

**Oda et al. 66.7% vs 23.2%,  $P = 0.01$**

**Tanizawa et al. 80% vs 26.1%,  $p < 0.001$**

**Multiple bullae in the upper lobe !**

# Low Body Mass Index and Weight Loss



- Progressive weight loss (disease progression, infection, malignancy)
- Low BMI (especially Japan)

## 52 patients with PPF by MDD

	Japanese patients			
	Nintedanib 150 mg bid (n = 76)	Placebo (n = 50)		
Age, mean years (SD)	68.4 (7.6)	68.2 (6.2)	Patients, number	52
Male (%)	62 (81.6)	40 (80.0)	Age, years	62.5 (14.5)
Weight, mean kg (SD)	63.8 (11.6)	63.8 (11.6)	Gender, male/female	31/21
<b>BMI, mean kg/m<sup>2</sup> (SD)</b>	<b>24.4 (3.4)</b>	<b>24.6 (3.5)</b>	History of pneumothorax, number	19
Ex- or current-smoker (%)	66 (86.8)	40 (80.0)	History of acute exacerbation, number	7
Time since diagnosis, mean years (SD)	1.6 (1.4)	1.2 (1.0)	mMRC scale	1 (2)
FVC, mean mL (SD)	2422 (672)	2495 (741)	Brinkman index	0 (220)
FVC, mean % predicted (SD)	80.9 (16.6)	83.3 (22.2)	<b>Body mass index</b>	<b>17.8 (2.8)</b>
FEV <sub>1</sub> /FVC ratio, mean % (SD)	83.3 (5.8)	83.0 (7.9)	Serum KL-6, U/mL	546 (390)
DL <sub>CO</sub> , mean % predicted (SD) <sup>†</sup>	44.6 (11.4)	45.3 (12.1)	Serum SP-D, ng/mL	208 (195)
SGRQ, mean total score (SD) <sup>‡</sup>	35.1 (18.1)	35.0 (18.7)	Serum SP-A, ng/mL	46.1 (34.3)
Systemic corticoid therapy (%)	9 (11.8)	7 (14.0)		

# Low Body Mass Index and Weight Loss



	IPF (n = 131) UIP/IPF 50 (38.2%), cIPF 81 (61.8%)	iPPFE (n = 43)
Age, yr	69.0 [64.0–75.0]	69.0 [64.0–74.0]
Sex, male/female	117 (89.3%)/14 (10.7%)	27 (62.8%)/16 (37.2%)
Observation period, mo	53.3 [31.6–86.1]	31.3 [18.2–47.2]
Never or former/current smoker	20 (15.3%), 111 (84.7%)	29 (67.4%), 14 (32.6%)
Smoking pack-year	35.0 [20.0–60.0]	0 [0–12.5]
acute exacerbation, yes	39 (29.8%)	8 (18.6%)
Height, cm	162.1 [157.0–166.0]	159.0 [152.0–165.0]
Weight, kg	60.0 [52.1–67.0]	42.3 [35.8–48.0]
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	23.1 [21.3–24.7]	17.2 [14.7–18.5]
ESM <sub>CSA</sub> , cm <sup>2</sup>	32.8 [27.1–37.7]	23.4 [17.8–30.6]
ESM <sub>MA</sub> , HU	42.0 [35.7–45.7]	43.5 [38.2–48.7]
<b>Pulmonary Function Test</b>		
FVC, %-pred	80.5 [66.4–92.9] (n = 120)	54.4 [45.8–67.5] (n = 37)
FEV <sub>1</sub> /FVC, %	83.5 [79.4–88.0] (n = 120)	96.3 [91.4–100] (n = 37)
DLCO, %	68.6 [55.4–97.1] (n = 52)	68.7 [47.9–91.9] (n = 24)

# Low Body Mass Index and Weight Loss



Characteristic	Total	PPFE	No PPFE	P-value
Number of subjects	445	28	417	
Age (years)	66.4 ± 7.8	67.3 ± 7.0	66.3 ± 7.8	0.482
Male	340 (76.4)	25 (89.3)	315 (75.5)	0.098
Ever-smokers	321 (72.1)	20 (71.4)	301 (72.2)	0.999
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.2 ± 3.1	21.2 ± 3.0	24.4 ± 3.1	<0.001
C-reactive protein (mg/dL)	0.7 ± 2.1	0.5 ± 0.7	0.7 ± 2.2	0.082
ABGA				
PaO <sub>2</sub> (mm Hg)	99.7 ± 19.9	99.6 ± 12.8	99.7 ± 20.3	0.972
PaCO <sub>2</sub> (mm Hg)	34.8 ± 5.8	36.5 ± 8.6	34.7 ± 5.6	0.107
Pulmonary function				
FVC (% predicted)	68.7 ± 15.7	58.7 ± 16.9	69.4 ± 15.4	0.003
DL <sub>CO</sub> (% predicted)	54.9 ± 16.2	52.2 ± 17.4	55.1 ± 16.2	0.408
TLC (% predicted)	69.3 ± 13.3	62.7 ± 11.9	69.7 ± 13.3	0.005
RV (% predicted)	53.5 ± 15.4	56.0 ± 20.9	53.4 ± 14.9	0.517
RV/TLC	0.32 ± 0.08	0.36 ± 0.13	0.31 ± 0.08	0.003
6MWT				
Distance (m)	410.4 ± 111.9	421.7 ± 116.4	409.7 ± 111.7	0.601
SpO <sub>2</sub> nadir (%)	90.1 ± 6.7	91.5 ± 4.6	90.0 ± 6.9	0.135
BAL fluid				
Neutrophils (%)	14.3 ± 19.1	16.2 ± 20.9	14.1 ± 19.0	0.627
Lymphocytes (%)	13.1 ± 12.4	10.6 ± 8.4	13.3 ± 12.7	0.140

# Alveolar collapse in upper lobe

→ compensatory hyperinflation in lower lobe



- Bilateral apical irregular subpleural thickening
- Interlobar pleura elevation
- Hilar retraction upwards

Upper lobe volume loss



Compensatory hyperinflation in lower lobe



✓  $TLC(\text{감소}) - RV(\text{증가}) = VC(\text{감소})$

✓  $RV/TLC(\text{증가})$

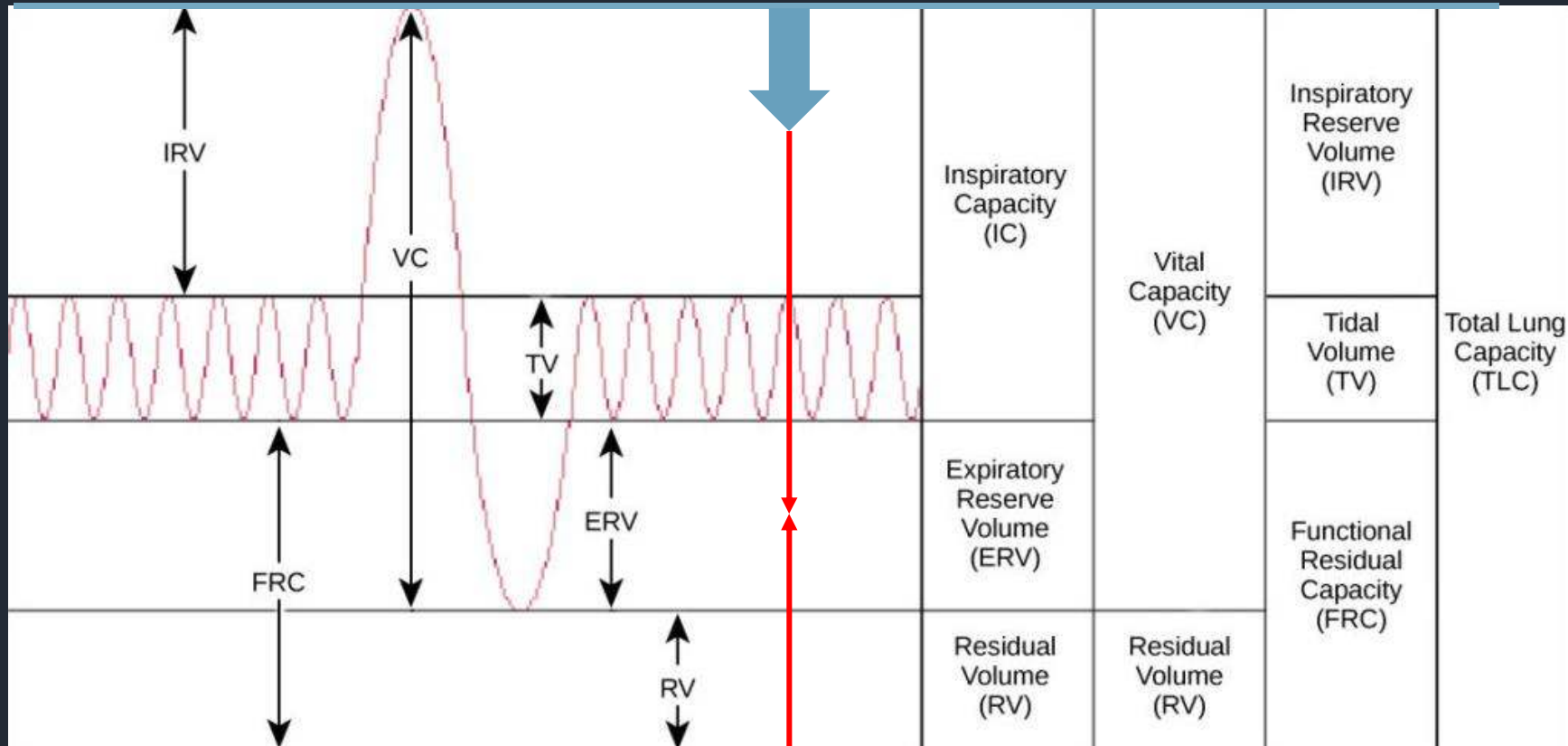
✓  $DL_{CO}(\text{상대적으로 정상})$

✓ Work of Breathing 증가

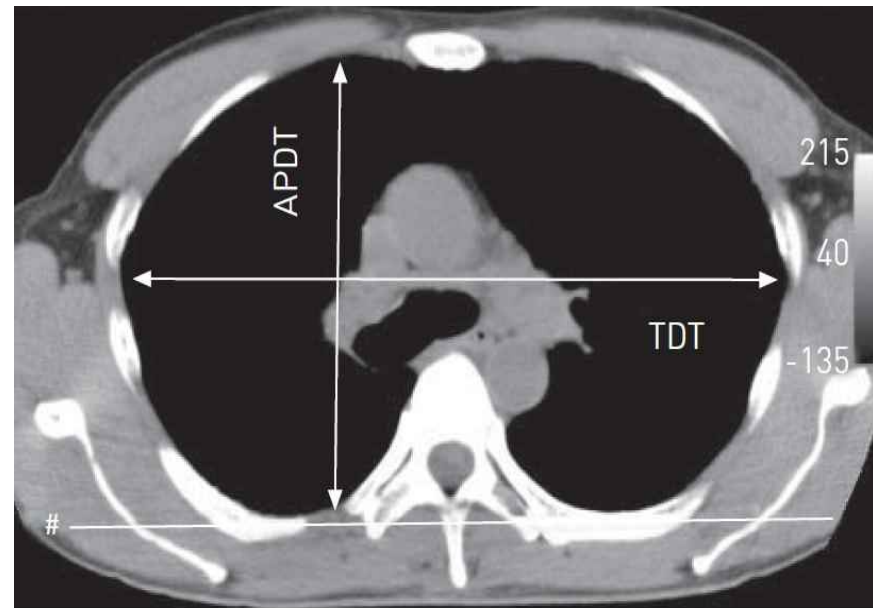
✓ Energy Expenditure 증가

✓ **Low BMI & Weight loss**

TLC 감소

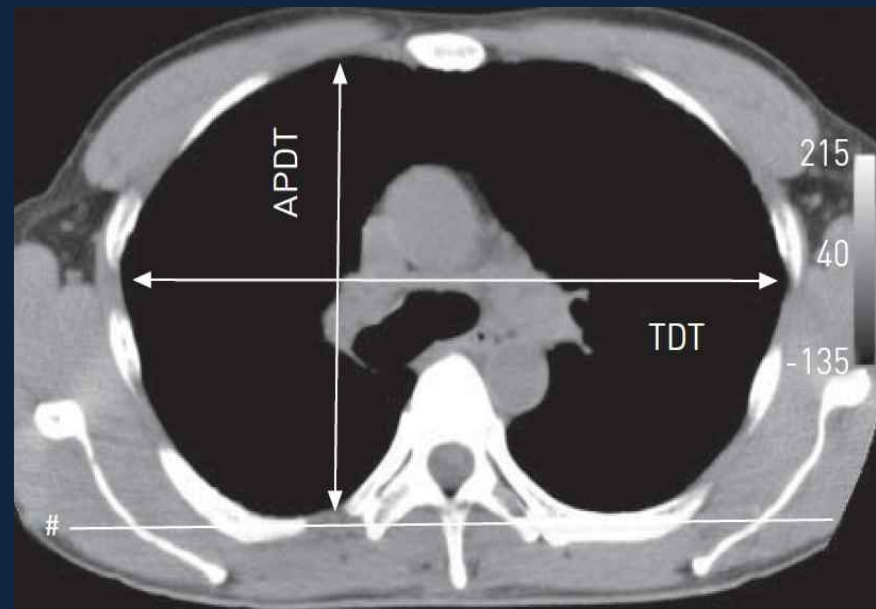


# Slender statue and flattened thoracic cage



“ Anterior-posterior diameter 감소 ”

APDT / Transthoracic diameter 감소



# Upper lobe only vs Lower lobe involvement



**Table 3. Radiological and pathological findings of the patients (n = 26)**

Characteristic	Value
Distribution on HRCT	
Upper lobe alone	4 (15.4)
Upper and lower lobe	22 (84.6)
Radiological pattern (lower lobes)	22
UIP pattern	13 (59.1)
PPFE pattern	8 (36.4)
Unclassifiable	1 (4.5)
Pathologic findings (lower lobes)	13
UIP pattern	6 (46.2)
OP pattern	4 (30.8)
PPFE pattern	2 (15.4)
Unclassifiable	1 (7.6)

# Upper lobe only vs Lower lobe involvement



## Baseline patient characteristics.

Patients, number	52
Age, years	62.5 (14.5)
Gender, male/female	31/21
History of pneumothorax, number	19
History of acute exacerbation, number	7
mMRC scale	1 (2)
Brinkman index	0 (220)
Body mass index	17.8 (2.8)
Serum KL-6, U/mL	546 (390)
Serum SP-D, ng/mL	208 (195)
Serum SP-A, ng/mL	46.1 (34.3)
Pulmonary function tests	
FVC, liter	1.98 (0.85)
FVC, %predicted	66.8 (21.3)
DLco, %predicted	73.2 (40.2)
TLC, liter	3.56 (1.32)
TLC, %predicted	72.5 (20.4)
RV/TLC, %	42.7 (9.3)
RV/TLC, %predicted	126.4 (37.8)
Six minute walk test	
Walk distance, meter	470 (193)
Walk distance, %predicted	88.1 (40.5)
Lowest SpO <sub>2</sub> , %	93 (5)
GAP score	3 (2)
Flat chest index	0.580 (0.08)
Presence of lower lung lesion on CT	43
Time after diagnosis, months	36 (39)

82.7%

Dominant patterns of CT image and histology in lower lung fields, and survival.

Dominant pattern of CT image	Total number	Survivors	Non-survivors
PPFE	13	6	7
UIP	*21	3	15
Inconsistent with UIP	9	5	4
No fibrosis	9	7	2
<hr/>			
Dominant pattern of histology			
PPFE	14	7	7
UIP	**18	4	12
Not UIP or unclassifiable IP	***10	4	5
No fibrosis or not biopsied	10	6	4

High incidence of lower lobe involvement (UIP > PPFE)

**PPFE with other ILD vs PPFE progression vs IPF progression**

## No gender preponderance

## Age at onset

Wide-ranging, younger than in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis(IPF)

## Smoking history

Unrelated to the incidence of PPFE

## Clinical symptoms

Exertional **dyspnea** and **dry cough** with insidious onset

Chest pain due to **pneumothorax**

**Loss of body weight**

## Physical findings

**Slender stature and flattened thoracic cage**

Crackles sometimes audible

## Ventilatory Impairment

**Decreased FVC**

Increased  $FEV_1/FVC$  (%)

Decreased TLC

**Increased RV/TLC (%)**

## Gas Exchange Impairment

**Decreased DLco**

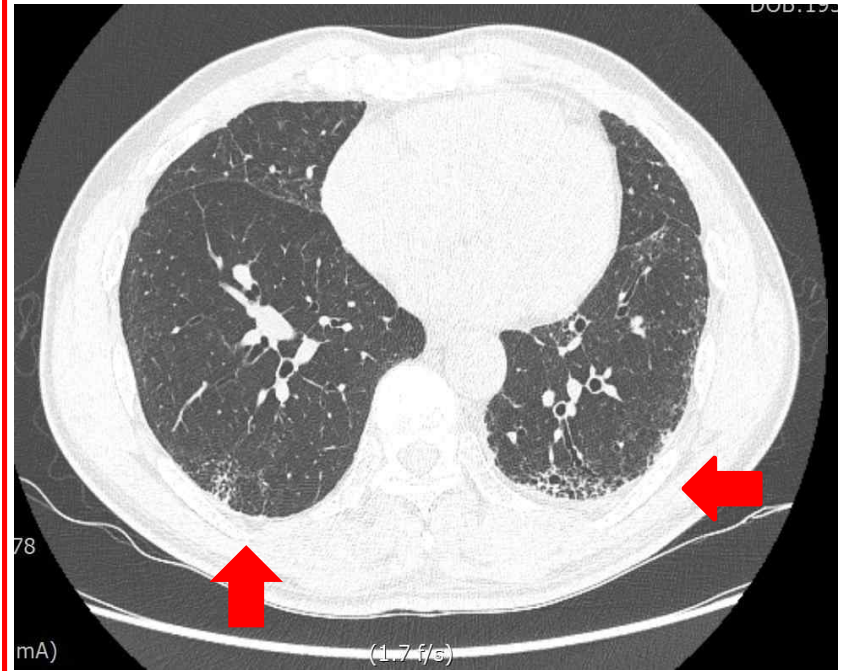
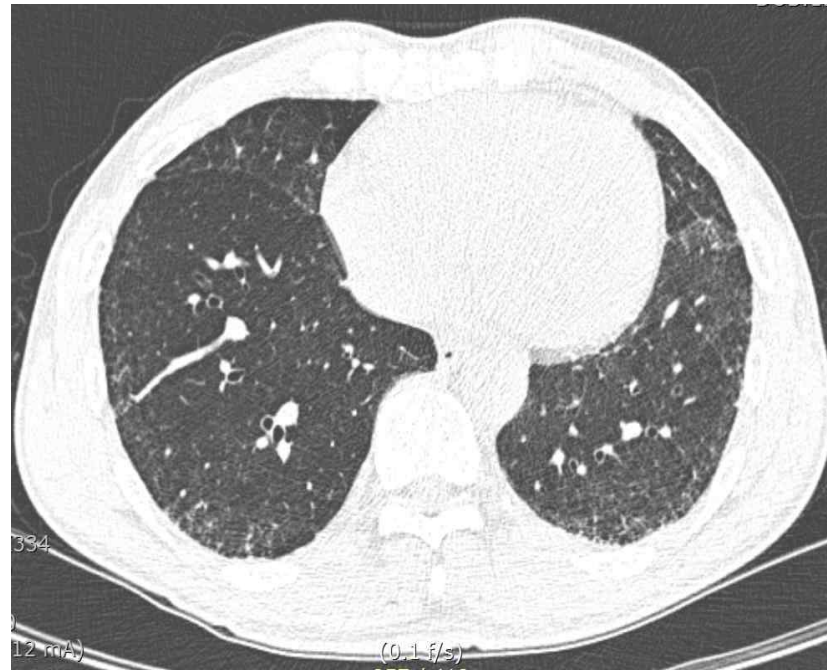
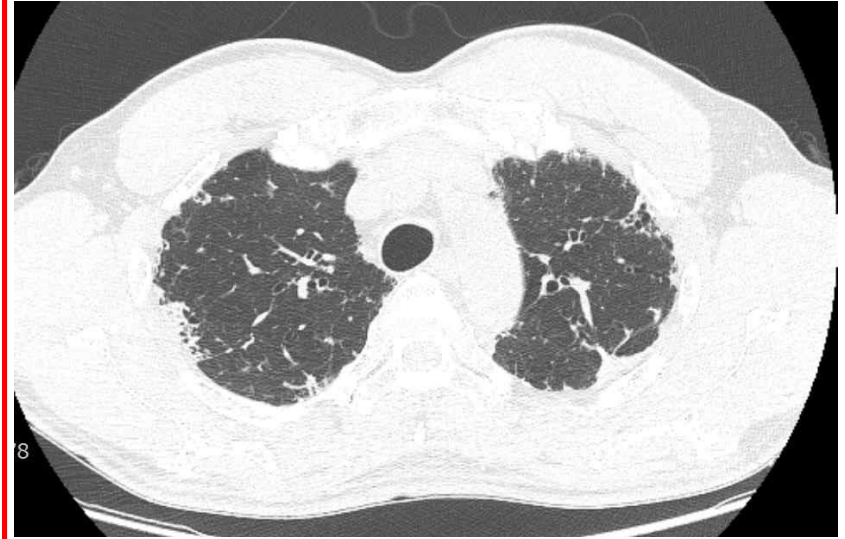
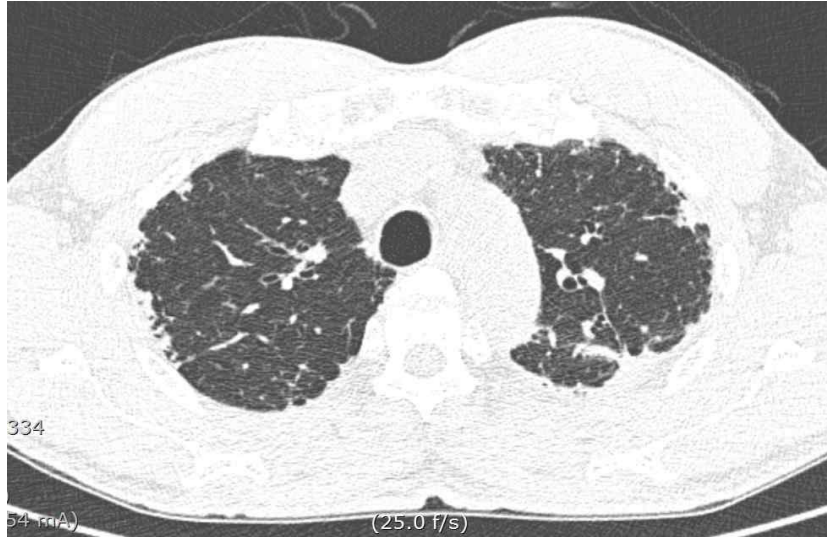
**Normal or minimally decreased DLco/VA**

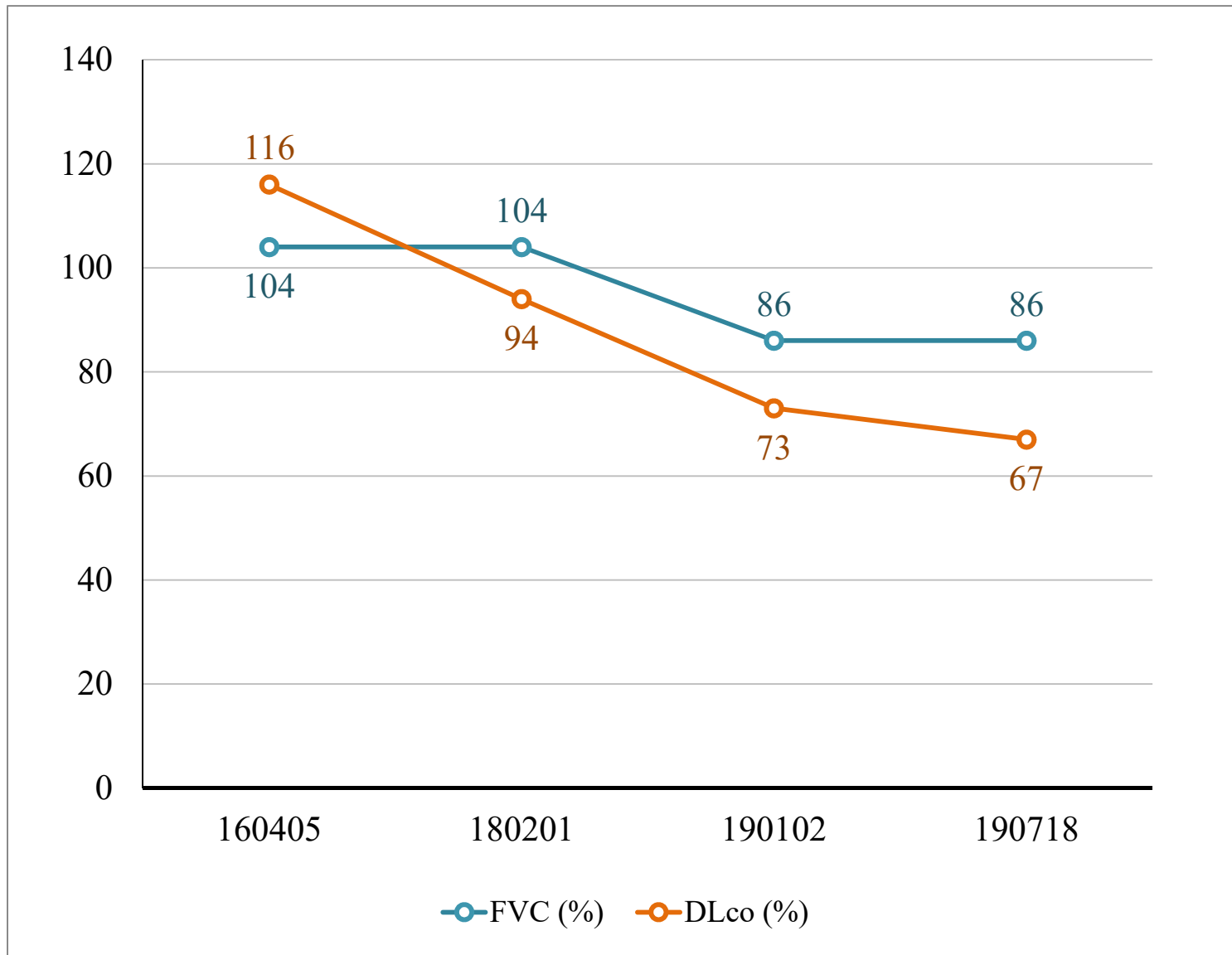
# Case 1



- M/63
- 2017년 S병원에서 VATS 시행 후 PPFE 진단
- 치료 없다는 이야기 듣고 공기 좋은 곳에서 생활 중
- 최근 운동 시 호흡곤란으로 검사 위해 내원함







# Case 1 summary

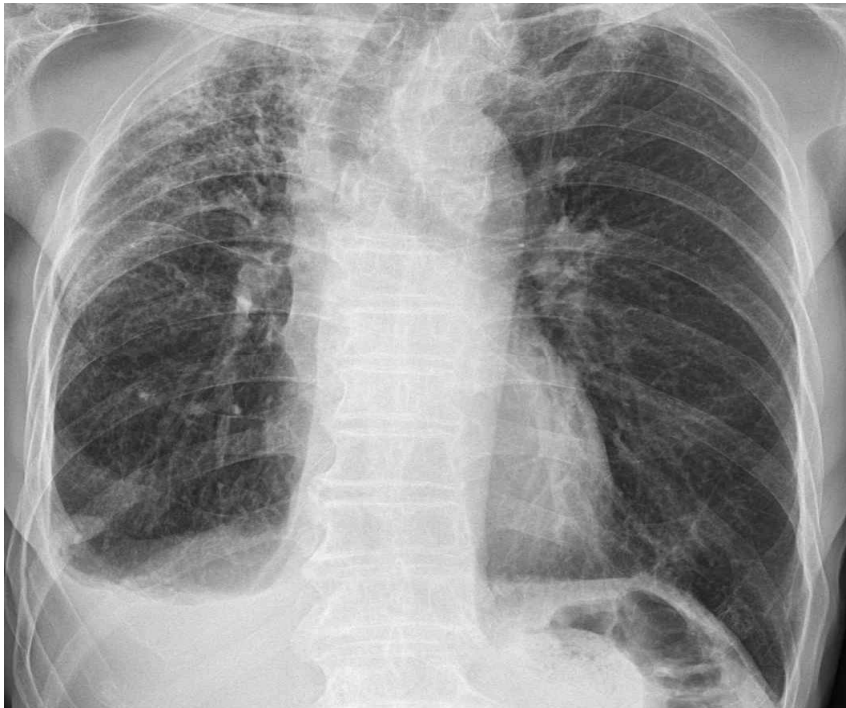


- Biopsy proven PPFE
- Lower lung involvement (high incidence, UIP)
- Rapid progression of PPFE
  
- Treatment ?
- No RCT
  
- But...**Anti-fibrotic agent** ! [경기관지 폐냉동생검]

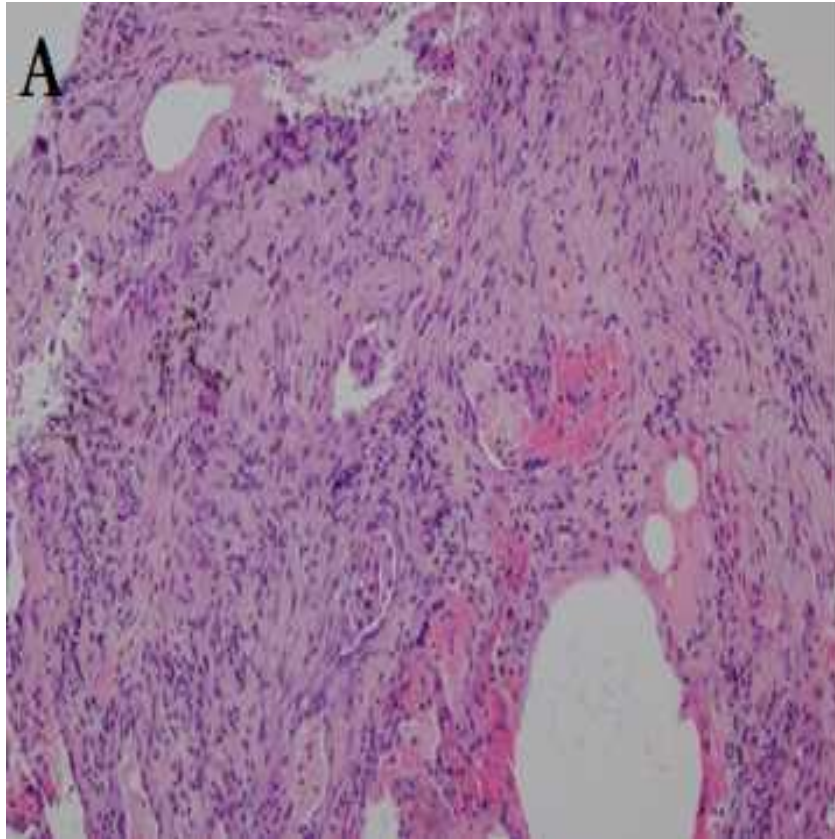
# Case 2



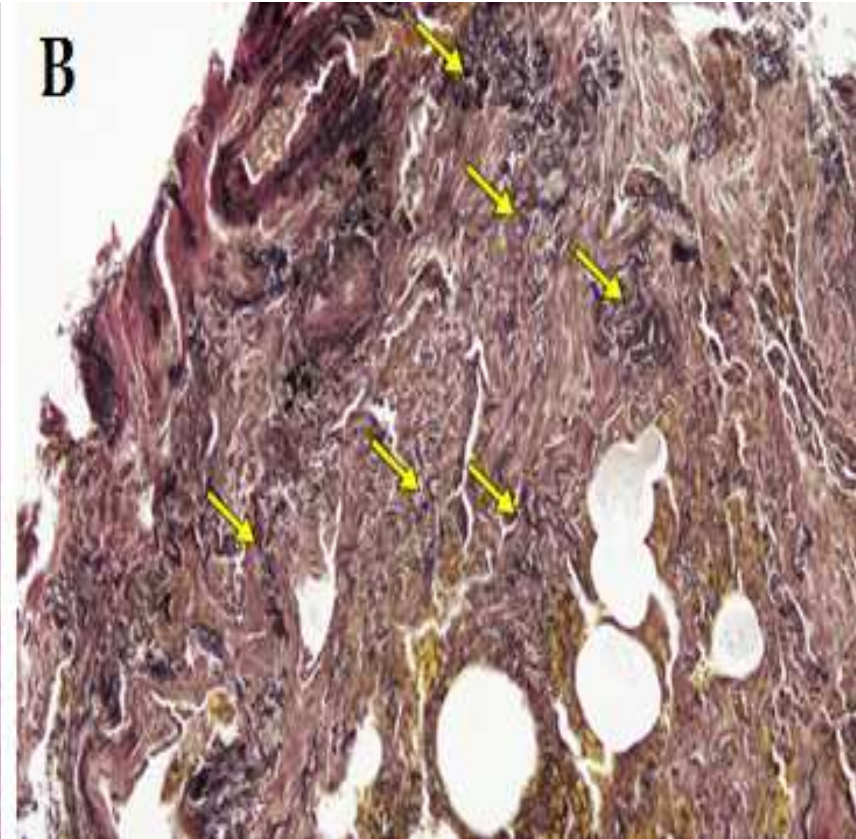
- M/74
- 1년 전부터 평지를 걸어갈 때 지속되는 호흡곤란으로 내원
- Ex-smoker 20pyrs, 30년 전 중단, 폐결핵(-)
- 가족력(-), 고무 제조 공장에서 30년간 근무



	% , predicted
FEV1/FVC	93
FVC (%)	49
BMI	19.5kg/m <sup>2</sup>



**H&E stain**  
Dense alveolar collapse with elastosis



**EVG stain**  
Septal elastosis with intra-alveolar  
collagenosis

# Rapid progression

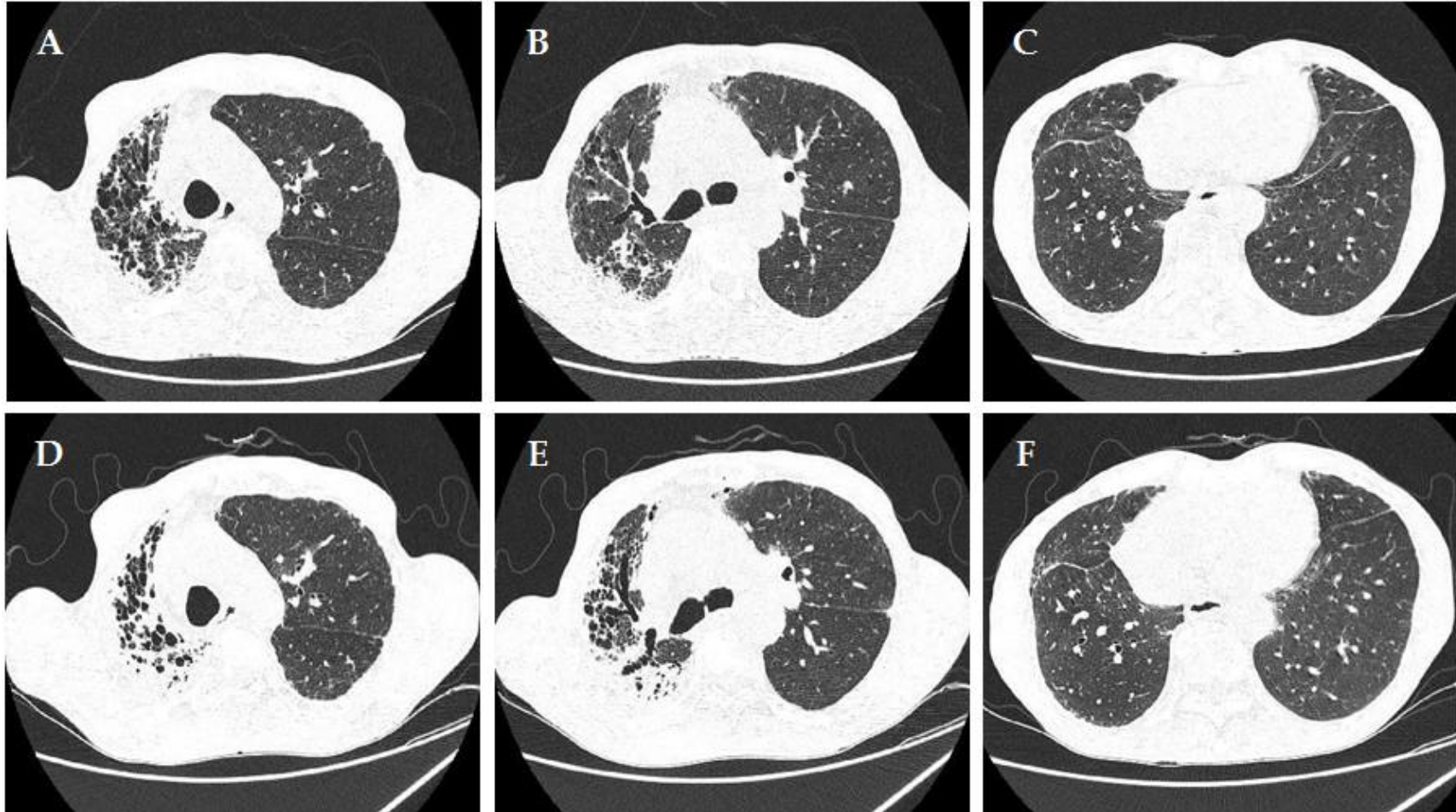


**Initial visit**



**6 months later**

# Rapid progression



**Initial visit**



**6 months later**

# Case 2 summary



- Biopsy proven PPFE
- **Unilateral lung involvement**
- Rapid progression of PPFE
  
- Treatment ?
- No RCT
  
- **But...Short term use of steroid, Pulmonary Rehab and weight gain !**

# Summary



- Upper lung predominant ILD – PPFE
- PPFE may not be as rare as previously perceived
- Unique features
- Frequent co-involvement of lower lung
- Classification, relevant underlying conditions, treatment ?
- Korean registry in the future

**감사합니다**