Aims

Objectives: Pulmonary fibrosis (PF) is a debilitating, progressive, fatal, and syncytial disease that is often life-limiting in patients who are younger than 65 years. The aim of this study was to examine disease characteristics and outcomes in patients with pulmonary fibrosis in Sweden.

Methods

This retrospective, single-cohort study utilized data from Swedish population-based registers (2001-2015). PF patients were identified using the Swedish National Patient Register and the Cause of Death Register. This study included patients aged 18-89 years at the time of diagnosis with at least one diagnosis of PF including idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) according to the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). The primary cohort consisted of 291 IPF patients, and a secondary cohort was created to examine PF patients without IPF.

Results

Survival

The cumulative incidence of death from any cause and PF-related death among the primary IPF cohort was 75% and 67%, respectively. Mortality was higher in patients aged 75-89 years at diagnosis compared to those aged 18-74 years (p = 0.004).

Non-Pharmacological Treatment Patterns

Lung transplants and home oxygen use were observed in 2% and 15% of patients, respectively. The majority of patients received inhaled corticosteroids (52%) and diuretics (48%).

Hospitalisations

The most common reason for hospitalisation was exacerbation of IPF (83%). The rate of hospitalisations was highest in the first year after diagnosis and decreased with each subsequent year (Figure 1).

Conclusions

This study provides comprehensive data on the disease characteristics and outcomes of patients with pulmonary fibrosis in Sweden. The findings highlight the importance of early diagnosis and the need for continued research to improve patient outcomes.

Disclosures

The authors declare no competing interests except for third-party writing assistance furnished by CMC AFFINITY, a division of Complete Medical Communications, Ltd. The authors also report that the data used in this study are publicly available through national registers in Sweden.

References


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