

Guidelines needed for 6MWT in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

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(HealthDay)—The six-minute walk test (6MWT) is increasingly being

used for patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), and guidelines are needed for its implementation in this population, according to a report published online Sept. 21 in the *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*.

Noting that the 6MWT is a commonly used assessment of performance ability in a variety of cardiopulmonary diseases, A. Whitney Brown, M.D., and Steven D. Nathan, M.D., from Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Va., address its use in IPF.

The authors note that there are no specific guidelines for use of the 6MWT in the growing population of patients with IPF, although it has been used in clinical practice and research trials of IPF. Development of nuanced standards designed specifically for IPF are needed given that there is increasing evidence and experience with its use in clinical trials.

"Further research into the role of the 6MWT, refinements in its implementation, and the development of standardized guidelines for its use in IPF are therefore strongly encouraged," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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