Work productivity and activity impairment in people with pulmonary fibrosis: insights from the I-FILE registry

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Introduction

- Pulmonary fibrosis (PF) has a major impact on lives of patients and their families.
- Data on work life of people with PF is currently lacking.

Aim

To evaluate the impact of PF on work productivity and activity impairment

Methods

- Data of the multinational online patient-led I-FILE registry were used
- Patients completed the work productivity and impairment (WPAI) questionnaire online at start of the registry study

I-FILE registry

Multicentre longitudinal study in 7 European countries (NCT04304898)

Patients with an ILD diagnosis established in an MDT and PF on chest CT scan

Patients participate in a home monitoring program, consisting of home spirometry and PROM completion

Study visits at baseline, 6, 12, 18, and 24 months

The **WPAI** includes questions about

1) Current employment status
2) Hours absent due to illness
3) Hours absent due to other reasons
4) Hours worked in the past 7 days
5) Numeric rating scale on work productivity (0: disease has no impact on work to 10: disease prevents me from working)

Results

295 patients completed the WPAI at baseline

Patient characteristics	N = 295
Male	n = 233 (79 %)
Age	68.5 (SD 9.7)
Diagnosis	
IPF	n = 140 (47%)
Non-IPF PF	n = 155 (53%)
Diagnosis < 6 months	n = 240 (81.3%)
FVC % of predicted	81.1 (SD 19.6)
DLCO % of predicted	55.1 (SD 17.7)
Below retirement age*	n = 112 (38%)

** Retirement age differs per country*

20.8% of all patients (n=61) had paid work

48.2% of patients below retirement age (n=54) had paid work

FVC and disease duration were similar in patients with and without paid work

Results

Patients worked a median of **30** hours per week (IQR 12-40)

Absence due to illness last week: median **0** hours (IQR 0-8)

Patients with paid work reported that their disease had almost no impact on work productivity (median score **0**, IQR 0-4)

Conclusion

- In the working age population of people with PF in the I-FILE registry, approximately half of patients were unemployed
- Interestingly, patients who had a paid job felt that work productivity was not largely impacted by their disease
- Follow-up data should reveal the impact of PF on work life during the disease course, as 80% of patients in the current analysis were newly diagnosed

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Introduction

Pulmonary fibrosis (PF) has a major impact on lives of patients and their families. Nevertheless, data on work life of people with PF is currently lacking. Here, we evaluated the impact of PF on work productivity and activity impairment.

Methods

As part of the online I-FILE patient-led PF registry in 7 countries (NCT04304898), people with PF completed the work productivity and activity impairment (WPAI) questionnaire. They reported number of hours work per week, hours absent due to PF in the last 7 days, and a numeric rating scale on work productivity from 0 (disease has no impact on work) to 10 (disease prevents me from working).

Results

295 patients in the I-FILE study completed the WPAI; baseline FVC was 81.1±19.6%predicted and DLCOc 55.1±17.7%. 81.3% (n=240) of patients were newly diagnosed (≤6months). Mean age was 68.5±9.7 years, and 28% of patients were <65years of age. 20.8% of all patients (n=61) and 54.9% (n=45) of patients <65years had paid work. FVC and disease duration were similar in patients with and without paid work. Patients worked a mean of 26.9±17.2 hours per week, with a median of 0 hours (IQR 0-8) of absence due to their disease in the last 7 days. Patients with a paid job reported that their disease had almost no impact on work productivity (median score 0, IQR 0-3).

Conclusion

In the working age population of people with PF participating in a home monitoring registry, almost half were unemployed. Interestingly, patients who had a paid job felt that work productivity was not largely impacted by their disease. As the majority of patients were newly diagnosed, follow-up data should reveal the impact of PF on work life during the disease course.