# Serum mitochondrial DNA predicts the risk of acute exacerbation and progression of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

Koji Sakamoto [1,5], Taiki Furukawa[2,5], Yasuhiko Yamano[3], Kensuke Kataoka[3], Ryo Teramachi[1], Anjali Walia[4], Atsushi Suzuki[1], Masahide Inoue[1], Yoshio Nakahara[1], Changwan Ryu[4], Naozumi Hashimoto [1] and Yasuhiro Kondoh[3]

**Affiliations**: [1]Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan. [2]Dept of Medical IT Center, Nagoya University Hospital, Nagoya, Japan. [3]Dept of Respiratory and Allergy, Tosei General Hospital, Seto, Japan. [4]Section of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA. [5]These authors contributed equally to this work.

**Correspondence**: Koji Sakamoto, Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, 65 Tsurumai-cho, Showa-ku, Nagoya 466-8550, Japan. E-mail: sakakoji@med.nagoya-u.ac.jp



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*To the Editor:*

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a progressive, fatal interstitial lung disease with a median survival of 3–5 years [1]. Its disease course is highly variable, as some patients experience rapid deterioration in lung function while others experience more gradual decline [2]. The development of acute exacerbation of IPF (AE-IPF), a highly lethal complication of unknown aetiology, has been shown to accelerate disease progression [3]. Presently, there are no accepted biomarkers that predict clinical deterioration [4], thus indicating an important, unmet need in the management of this devastating disease.