SPLUNC1 comes of age? Predicting acute exacerbations in cystic fibrosis

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Measurement of the levels of SPLUNC1 in sputum may be a useful biomarker of cystic fibrosis exacerbations https://bit.ly/2TBfaB9

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Cystic fibrosis (CF) was first recognised as a specific disease in 1938 in an autopsy study of malnourished infants who displayed mucus plugging of glandular ducts [1]. The disease was characterised by malabsorption of fat and protein, steatorrhea, growth failure and pulmonary infection, which was ultimately fatal [1, 2]. Since that time, life expectancy for patients with CF has steadily improved from around 6 months to more than 40 years [3]. In many countries, the number of adults with CF now exceeds the number of children [3, 4]. Initially, improvement in survival occurred without any knowledge of the basic disease defect, using treatments directed at nutritional repletion, relief of airway obstruction, and antibiotic therapy of lung infection [2, 3]. The discovery of the CFTR gene in 1989 marked an important milestone in the history of CF [5] and led directly to the development of an array of targeted therapeutics that have shown great efficacy in modifying the disease [6, 7]. Although therapies have changed, aggressive treatment remains the foundation of clinical care.