

# **Hypersensitivity pneumonia: UIP/IPF histopathological presentation**

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A 59 year-old businesswoman developed recurrent pneumonia with associated chronic cough over a 3 year time period. Two years later a chest x-ray revealed interstitial lung disease. After worsening of symptoms and pulmonary function tests, she underwent an open lung biopsy which revealed a histopathological pattern consistent with UIP. Further worsening led to a referral to consider environmental causes. Investigation of her home revealed water damage from a roof leak and sewage gas from faulty plumbing. Serum precipitins were positive to 11 different mold antigens. This case represents hypersensitivity pneumonia advancing over several years to end stage lung disease.

Factors that might have altered her prognosis include the following:

- open lung biopsy earlier in the course
- an environmental history since onset of symptoms
- an environmental investigation of the home and workplace
- remediation or moving from the contamination.

We conclude that all patients with idiopathic interstitial lung disease must be suspected of having hypersensitivity pneumonia to home or workplace contamination until aggressive evaluation proves otherwise.