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Physiological predictors of exertional oxygen desaturation in patients with fibrotic interstitial lung disease

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In patients with interstitial lung disease, exertional hypoxaemia has quality of life and prognostic implications. A simple “DeOX” score predictive of exertional oxygen desaturation ($S_{pO_2} \leq 88\%$ on 6MWT) is proposed, using S_{pO_2} at rest and D_{LCO} . <http://bit.ly/36ytigE>

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To the Editor:

In patients with fibrotic interstitial lung disease (ILD), hypoxaemia on exertion is frequent, and contributes to exercise intolerance, exertional dyspnoea and reduced quality of life [1–3]. Clinically significant exertional hypoxaemia is typically defined as a drop in transcutaneous arterial oxygen saturation (S_{pO_2}) to $\leq 88\%$ on a 6-min walk test (6MWT) [4], and is associated with reduced survival in ILD patients [5].