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Blood monocyte counts as a potential prognostic marker for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: analysis from the Australian IPF registry

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To the Editor:

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a chronic, progressive, fibrosing lung disease that leads to unrelenting dyspnoea and chronic cough, and ultimately respiratory failure [1]. IPF is characterised by a variable disease course that remains difficult to predict for an individual at diagnosis [2]. In the current era, with the advent of anti-fibrotic therapy which can slow disease progression, it is increasingly important to identify patients with early disease and to target those patients who are at most risk of rapid decline [3]. However, despite multiple studies proposing novel potential prognostic biomarkers, the current American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society/Japanese Respiratory Society/Latin American Thoracic Society guideline statements dismissed the use of these biomarkers except in a research capacity [3, 4].