PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: Why Early Diagnosis Matters

High blood pressure in the lungs is called pulmonary hypertension (PH) or pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). PH was once considered rapidly fatal, but today many patients enjoy longer, healthier lives thanks to the availability of 12 medical therapies. With no cure for PH, proper treatment is essential and early, accurate diagnosis is the key.

The symptoms of PH are commonly associated with other diseases, leading to frequent misdiagnosis.

Learn more at: SometimesItsPH.org

Sources:

- Delay in Recognition of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Factors Identified From the REVEAL Registry, Lynette M. Brown, MD, PhD, FCCP, et al (CHEST, 2011)
- The Early Diagnosis of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Can We Do Better?, Harold I. Palevsky (CHEST, 2011)

Many patients will see 3 or more different physicians over a 3-year period before they are properly diagnosed with PH

The average time between PH symptom onset and diagnosis

2.8 years

NEARLY ¾ OF PATIENTS HAVE ADVANCED PH (CLASS III OR IV) BY THE TIME THEY ARE DIAGNOSED

Average time to diagnosis has not changed in more than 20 years, despite the development of all 12 therapies during that same timeframe.

The Pulmonary Hypertension Association’s Early Diagnosis Campaign aims to facilitate accurate diagnosis and appropriate intervention early in the disease state with the goal of improved patient outcomes.