ALPHA

Diagnosis

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency

Confirmed (1 time)

- Pi-Type
- Genotype
- Alpha-1 level
- Consider consultation with an Alpha-1 lung or liver specialist
- Genetic counseling and family testing
- Discussion of membership in the Alpha-1 Research Registry
- Discussion of participation in appropriate clinical trials

Discuss Alpha-1 diagnosis

- Phenotype _____
- Genotype _____
- Alpha-1 level _____
- Ask about evaluation by a healthcare professional with expertise in Alpha-1 (lung and/or liver disease)
- Discuss genetic and hereditary considerations
- Discuss family testing
- Consider participation in the Alpha-1 Research Registry and research studies

Pulmonary Diagnosis

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency

- COPD
- Emphysema
- Chronic Bronchitis
- Bronchiectasis
- Asthma
- Other:

Pulmonary Diagnosis

I'm an Alpha with lung disease

- Emphysema ____
- Chronic Bronchitis ______
- Bronchiectasis ___
- Asthma _____
- Other: _____

Evaluate for Related Medical Conditions

- Gastroesophageal reflux/aspiration
- Sinusitis
- Liver disease
- Sleep apnea and nocturnal desaturation
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Osteoporosis, bone loss
- Necrotizing panniculitis
- Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis
- Atypical mycobacteria
- Rare conditions associated with

Alpha-1:	

Report the following symptoms:

- Heartburn
- Sinus problems
- Constant or nighttime drip/draining
- Sore throat
- Sleep problems
- Snoring
- Tired when I wake up
- Skin problems
- Rash/itching/pain/eruptions
- Liver symptoms
- Jaundice (skin yellowing)
- Bleeding

Health Status Assessments

(Once a year, at least)

Laboratory

- CBC, platelets
- PT
- ABG's or oximetry

Laboratory

Ask healthcare provider to discuss lab tests and implication for lung status, liver status, and other conditions

 ALT, AST, GGTP, Bilirubin total and direct, LDH, Alk.Phos.

Pulmonary Function Testing

- Complete pulmonary function tests preand post-bronchodilator including plethysmographic lung volumes and DLCO
- Spirometry alone (if more complete testing unavailable)
- 6-minute walk with oximetry and titration

Classify COPD severity

Consider lung transplant evaluation if very severe air flow obstruction

Pulmonary Function Testing

Discuss concerns regarding pulmonary function testing

- Difficulties performing test
- Side effects from bronchodilator
- Health status at the time of testing
- Problems withholding pulmonary medications during testing

Discuss status of lung disease and potential for lung transplantation

Radiology

- Chest PA and lateral or baseline high resolution CT of chest (1 time only) or follow-up CT of chest (if change in clinical status)
- Bone densitometry (baseline and as indicated)

Radiology

- Discuss concerns regarding radiation exposure
- Discuss results and implication for lung status

Medications

Medication review with special emphasis on simplification of the medical regimen, new therapeutics on the horizon, and better selfmanagement by patient

Usual medications for Alpha-1-COPD

- Long acting beta-agonist
- Inhaled corticosteroid
- Long acting muscarinic
- Rescue inhaler

At-home medications to manage exacerbations

- Antibiotic (take at first sign of lung infection):
- Short course oral steroids

Medications

- Bring list of all medications to review with physician
- Review the expiration dates on all home medicines
- Discuss side effects/problems
- Ask if medicines can be reduced or eliminated

Keep a complete written list of all your medicines where you can easily find it

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Long acting bronchodilator(s)	
Inhaled steroids	
Steroid pills	
Rescue inhaler	

During a flare-up (exacerbation)

• I can self-treat at home

Patient's trend in exacerbation frequency is:

- No exacerbations
- More frequent or severe exacerbations
- Less frequent or severe exacerbations

Oxygen prescription (including justifying ABG and/or oximetry):

- Rest_____
- Exertion____
- Sleep_____

- Drink fluids
- Sputum clearance techniques
- Relaxation
- I start antibiotics and have them at home for this reason
- I increase my inhaled medications and adjust them to my symptoms as planned with my healthcare provider
- I use steroid pills and have them at home as planned with my healthcare provider
- I know when I need to call my healthcare provider, go to the emergency room or call 911

Discuss issues related to oxygen therapy

- Changes in breathing with rest/exercise/sleep
- Types of systems/equipment
- Check insurance Coverage

Lifestyle Management

Immunizations

- Influenza vaccine
- Pneumococcal vaccine (q 5 yrs. if COPD)
- Prevnar-13
- Hepatitis A vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- TDaP

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Smoking Cessation

- Referral to smoking cessation program
- Nicotine replacement therapy prescribed

Smoking Cessation

- I don't smoke or have a plan in place to stop
- I'm in a smoking cessation program
- I use my nicotine replacement therapy
- I have a strategy in place to avoid secondhand smoke

Ancillary Information

- Consultation with an Alpha-1 Aware healthcare provider or Alpha-1 Clinical Resource Center over coming years
- Family/genetic counseling and consideration of family testing for Alpha-1

Ancillary Information

- Discuss evaluation by a healthcare provider with special expertise in Alpha-1
- Discuss genetic and hereditary considerations
- Discuss risks and benefits of testing family members

- Discussion of participation in local support group and membership in the Alpha-1 Association, the Alpha-1 Research Registry, and the Alpha-1 DNA and Tissue Bank
- Discussion of participation in appropriate clinical trials

- Find out about local and national resources that can help me educate myself and help others
- Consider learning about and joining in drug studies

Toxic Exposure

- Assess potential for inhaled toxic exposure in the home and workplace
- Assess use of alcohol/other liver toxic substances including medications

Toxic Exposure

- Discuss the potential for toxic exposure in the workplace with supervisor
- Have strategies in place to avoid occupational dust and fume exposure
- As appropriate, have a properly fitted mask
- Know how to access of MSDS at work

I'm aware of those substances in my home or outdoors that are toxic or irritating to my lungs and have a plan to avoid them

Examples: Cleaning substances/wood smoke

Discuss the risks associated with alcohol consumption and Alpha-1. Ask about the effects of your medications on the liver

Diet and Nutrition

Current Weight: _____

If Overweight

- Consider dietary consultation
- Specific diet recommendations
- Recommendations for exercise programs

Home exercise program

Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Diet and Nutrition

Current Weight: _____

This weight is:

Overweight _____ Underweight _____ Desired weight_____

If Overweight:

- Develop or enroll in a weight management plan
- Develop or enroll in an exercise program
- Discuss the use of vitamins and mineral supplements

If Underweight

- Dietary consultation with on-going intervention until normal weight restored
- Nutrition plan with consideration of dietary supplements and/or medical nutrition intervention
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation

If Underweight:

- Discuss the need for a nutrition evaluation with healthcare provider
- Discuss the use of vitamins and mineral supplements and potential need for other nutritional interventions
- Discuss pulmonary rehabilitation and exercise limitations until weight stabilized

Activity and Fitness: Improvement and Maintenance

Assess current fitness level

Home Exercise Program recommendations:

- Warm-up and stretching
- Muscle strengthening
- Cardiopulmonary (endurance)

Pulmonary Rehabilitation referral

- For endurance and strength
- For ADL and pacing
- For 6-minute walk
- For oximetry at rest and with exertion
- For instruction for self-monitoring

Activity and Fitness: Improvement and Maintenance

Develop and implement a specific exercise program based on your healthcare provider's recommendation, your motivation and perceived level of fitness

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- For improved functioning
- For maintenance

Home Exercise Program

- Discuss use of oxygen with exercise
- Request specific recommendations for warmup and stretching, muscle strengthening and cardiopulmonary (endurance) training.
- Date started

Discuss the need for a referral to a Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program

- Check insurance coverage
- Date started

Coping and Support Strategies

Assess Understanding and Acceptance of Diagnosis

- Discuss long-term implications of diagnosis with chronic disease
- Discuss participation in local support organizations

Assess for presence of depression

I understand and accept the diagnosis of Alpha-1, and my family does, too.

My family understands and accepts the diagnosis of Alpha-1

I can find local and national resources to support and educate myself and my family

- Alpha-1 Foundation
- AlphaNet

- Consider professional evaluation if symptoms persist or become severe
- Consider antidepressants

Provide opportunity of discussion of issues related to sexuality/sexual performance/dysfunction as related to COPD

• Consider referral to a specialist

Discuss medical and lifestyle implications of organ transplantation

Report the following symptoms

- On-going feelings of sadness
- Sleep loss/sleeping excessively
- Chronic fatigue
- Weight loss
- Withdrawal from activities/people
- Thoughts of suicide
- Discuss issues of sexuality/sexual performance/dysfunction with your healthcare provider particularly as related to COPD
- Energy requirements/breathing implications/use of oxygen equipment during sexual activity
- Body image

Ask for referrals to appropriate support services

Discuss lung transplantation/preparatory issues, lifestyle implications

- Selecting a program
- Getting listed
- Discuss potential with family
- Seek support from transplanted Alpha's

End of Life/Advance Directives

Explain, ascertain and document patient's advance medical directives

Discuss organ donation

End of life/Advance Directives

Discuss end of life issues with my healthcare provider and family

Ensure that your wishes are known and carried out by preparing appropriate documents

Consider organ donation