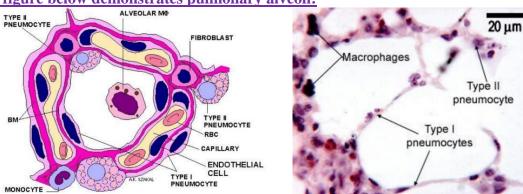
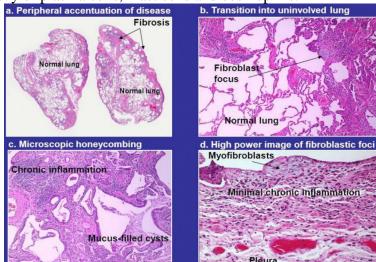
Unit II – Problem 5 – Pathology: Interstitial Lung Diseases

- The figure below demonstrates pulmonary alveoli:



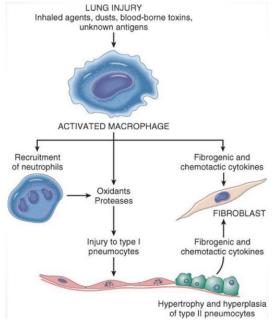
- Restrictive disease: inability to fill the lung due to the following causes
 - **Interstitial lung disease**: a disorder in which there is fibrosis in interstitium resulting in thickening of barrier of gas exchange. Pulmonary interstitium is composed of:
 - ✓ Basement membrane.
 - ✓ Collagen fibers.
 - ✓ Elastic tissue.
 - ✓ Fibroblasts.
 - ✓ Few mast cells.
 - ✓ Occasionally mononuclear cells.
 - Chest wall abnormalities (such as obesity): in which there is a force in the chest wall that is inhibiting the lung from being opened and filled.
- Restrictive disease spirometry changes:
 - \ \ TLC
 - ↓↓ FVC
 - ↓ FEV₁
 - $\uparrow \frac{FEV_1}{FVC}$ (> 80%).
- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis:
 - **Definition**: fibrosis of lung interstitium which is more common among males ≥ 60 years old.
 - Histology:
 - ✓ Simply: thickened air sacs walls.
 - ✓ <u>Dense fibrosis</u> → collapse of alveolar walls + formation of cystic spaces lined by hypertrophic type-II pneumocytes of bronchiolar epithelium (honeycomb fibrosis).
 - ✓ The interstitial inflammation is composed mostly of lymphocytes and occasionally of plasma cells, mast cells and eosinophils.





• Cause: cyclical lung injury (alveolitis) with cyclical lung healing in which there is generation of TGF-β that induces fibrosis. Secondary causes for this disease include drugs (such as bleomycin and amiodarone) in addition to radiation therapy.



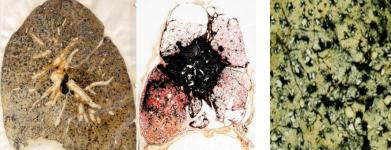


Clinical features:

- ✓ Progressive dyspnea (as fibrosis is getting worse with time) and cough.
- ✓ Fibrosis is seen on lung CT-scan (initially in supleural region and then progressing to involve the entire lung).
- **Treatment**: lung transplantation.

Pneumoconioses:

- **Definition**: interstitial fibrosis due to occupational exposure to small particles (that are fibrogenic) and going to activate macrophages which will mediate fibrosis.
 - ✓ <u>Coal workers pneumoconioses</u>: carbon gets into macrophages which will induce massive fibrosis of the lung. This will result in black shrunken lung (coal macules 1-2 mm and coal nodules which are more noticed in upper lobes and upper zones of lower lobes).



- ✓ <u>Silicosis</u>: there is exposure to silica which impairs phagolysosomes to be formed in macrophages. This is the only pneumoconioses causing ↑ risk for tuberculosis.
- ✓ <u>Berylloisis</u>: seen in miners and workers in aerospace industry. It is resulting in non-caseating granuloma in lungs, hilar lymph nodes and systemic organs. It increases the risk for lung cancer.
- Asbestosis: seen in construction workers, plumbers and shipyard workers. It creates fibrosis in lung/pleura or cancer in lung/pleura. Asbestosis bodies are long rod-shaped particles with iron deposited on them. Fibrosis begins in lower lobes and subpleurally (while coal workers pneumoconioses and silicosis affect upper lobes).

