# Pathological findings in interstitial lung diseases

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The interstitial lung diseases (ILD) are a group of heterogeneous disease entities that describe pathological processes involving the “interstitium” of the lung. The etiologies vary greatly and are mostly unknown. The clinical outcome can usually be predicted by the pathological findings and diagnoses, which are always challenging to the pathologists.

The classification of the interstitial pneumonia with no known causes, i.e., idiopathic interstitial pneumonia, has been well established over the years. The importance of multi-disciplinary approaches in the management of patients with idiopathic interstitial pneumonia cannot be overemphasized.

**TABLE 1. REVISED AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY/EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY CLASSIFICATION OF IDIOPATHIC INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIAS: MULTIDISCIPLINARY DIAGNOSES**

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| Major idiopathic interstitial pneumonias |
| Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis |
| Idiopathic nonspecific interstitial pneumonia |
| Respiratory bronchiolitis–interstitial lung disease |
| Desquamative interstitial pneumonia |
| Cryptogenic organizing pneumonia |
| Acute interstitial pneumonia |
| Rare idiopathic interstitial pneumonias |
| Idiopathic lymphoid interstitial pneumonia |
| Idiopathic pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis |
| Unclassifiable idiopathic interstitial pneumonias* |

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This overview will be focusing on the 2013 official guidelines issued by the ATS/ERS. An alert on the possible underdiagnosed status of hypersensitivity pneumonitis will also be discussed.