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Effect of pirfenidone on breathlessness in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis M.K. Glassberg et al. Research Letter Pirfenidone on breathlessness in IPF patients

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To the Editor:

Dyspnoea is a frequent and debilitating symptom in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and is reported as the most important factor determining their health-related quality of life (QoL) [1–3]. Previous *post hoc* analysis of pooled data from IPF clinical trials has shown that a worsening of dyspnoea was particularly likely in patients with more severe *versus* less severe disease [4]. Interestingly, it has been suggested that patients with more severe disease may experience a greater benefit from pirfenidone on categorical worsening of dyspnoea or death compared with patients with less severe disease [4]. Here, we report the results of a *post hoc* analysis aiming to further examine the effect of pirfenidone compared with placebo on dyspnoea severity in patients with IPF, including the change from baseline in dyspnoea over 12 months and categorical changes in dyspnoea at 12 months.