

Closing the Gap Between Primary and Speciality Care - A Crucial Intervention to Boost Vaccination Rates for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Patients at ECU Health

Valentine Okafor
Brody School of Medicine
LINC Distinction Track
Greenville, North Carolina 27858
okaforv12@students.ecu.edu

Chikeluba V Okafor, Dr. William Wooten MD

BACKGROUND

- The aim of this project is to identify, address and reduce the barriers to influenza vaccination rates among cystic fibrosis patients at ECU Pediatric Specialty clinic.
- Although integrated care is key in this clinic, health insurance restrictions prevents most patients from receiving vaccinations at this clinic, resulting in potential gaps in healthcare delivery.
- Following an interview with the parents of a CF patient to gain valuable insight into their healthcare experience, various areas of improvements were identified.
- By boosting vaccination rates, CF patients may receive the necessary protection that they need against influenza and mitigate any further respiratory complications.

PATIENT CARE SETTING

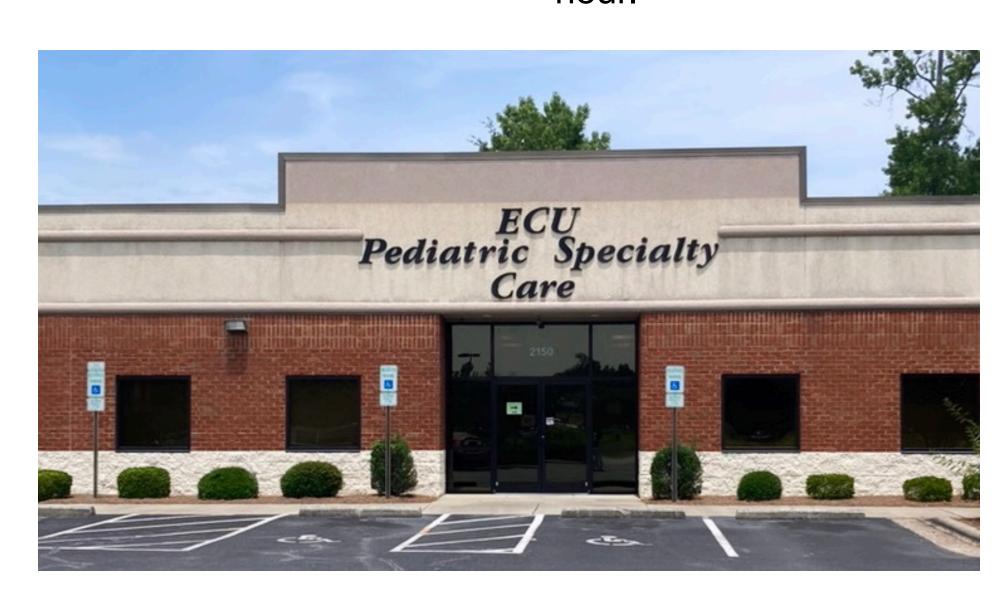
CLINICAL SETTING

A 10-year-old CF male patient presented to the ECU Pediatric Specialty Clinic with his family for a routine pulmonary function test and physical therapy evaluations.

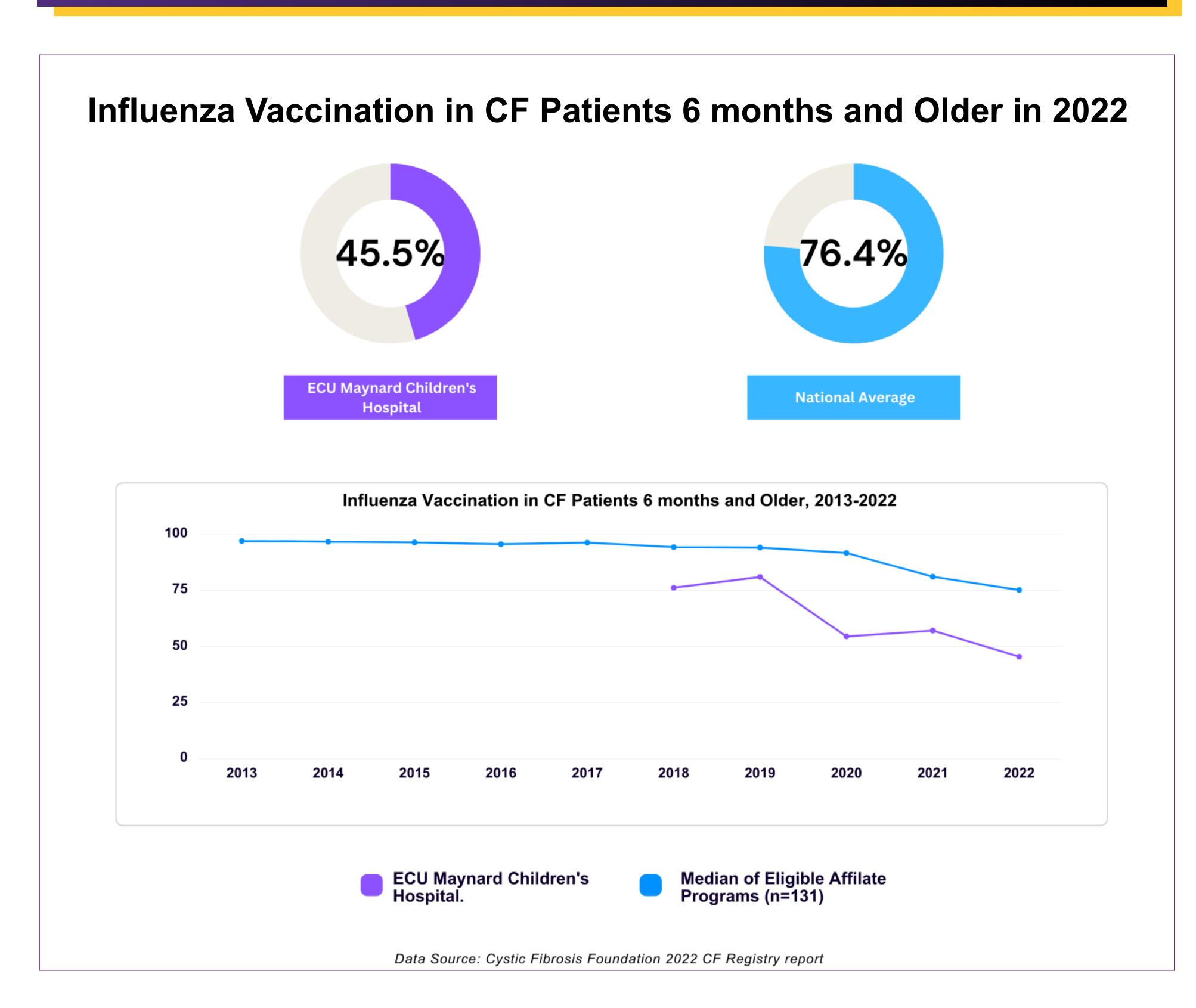
With the consent of his parents, a brief interview was conducted to gain valuable insights into their child's journey with CF, their experiences with the specialty clinic, and to identify areas of improvement.

STRENGTHS

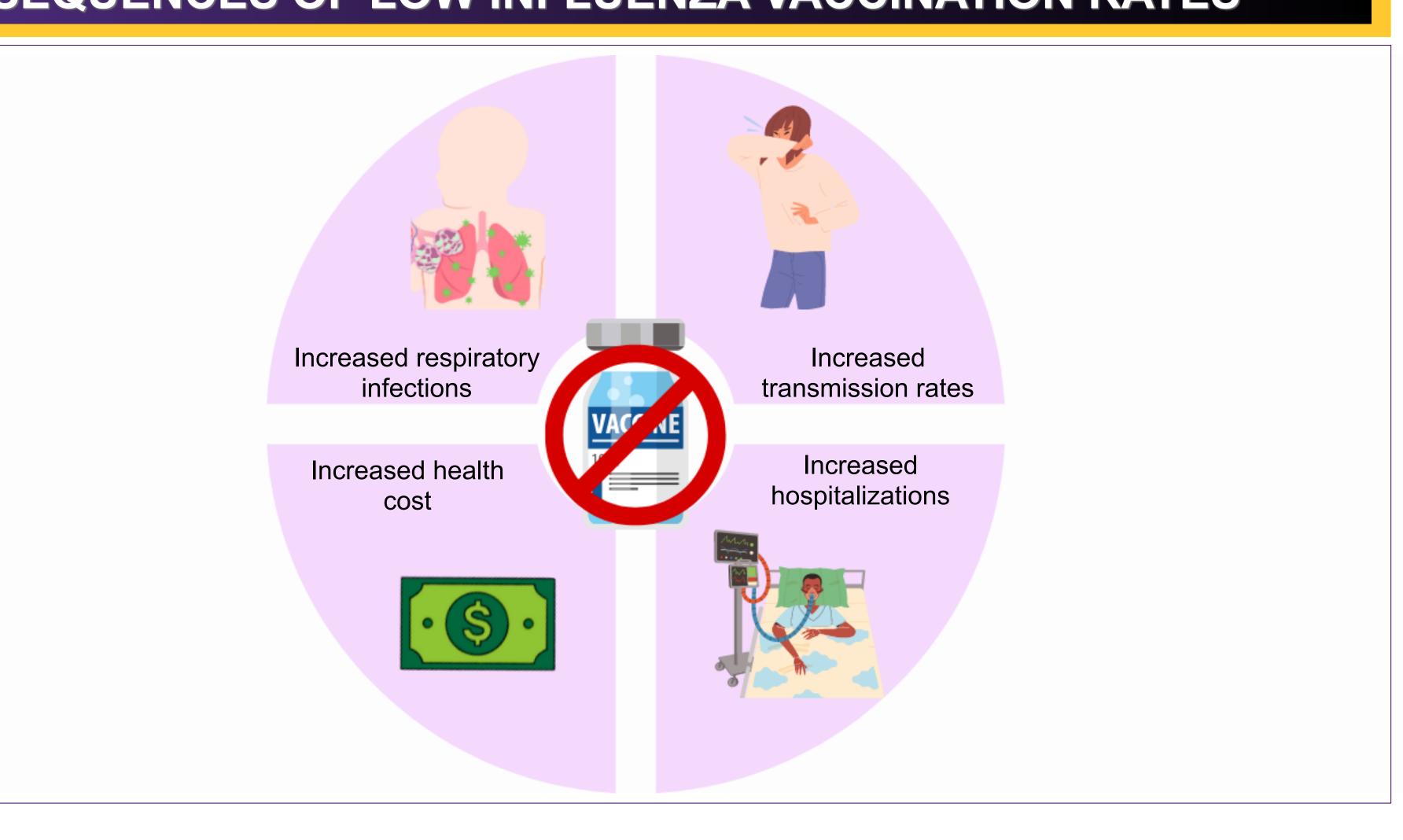
- Sanitation: Prior to the patient's arrival, the exam room and medical equipment were thoroughly sanitized.
- Friendly atmosphere: Each caregiver greeted the patient and his family with familiarity and a warm smile
- Support: The staff displayed enthusiasm, offered support, stayed engaged with the child and used simple language when explaining each step to the him.
- Efficiency: These simple measures streamlined the process. The visit was conducted in timely manner and was completed within hour.



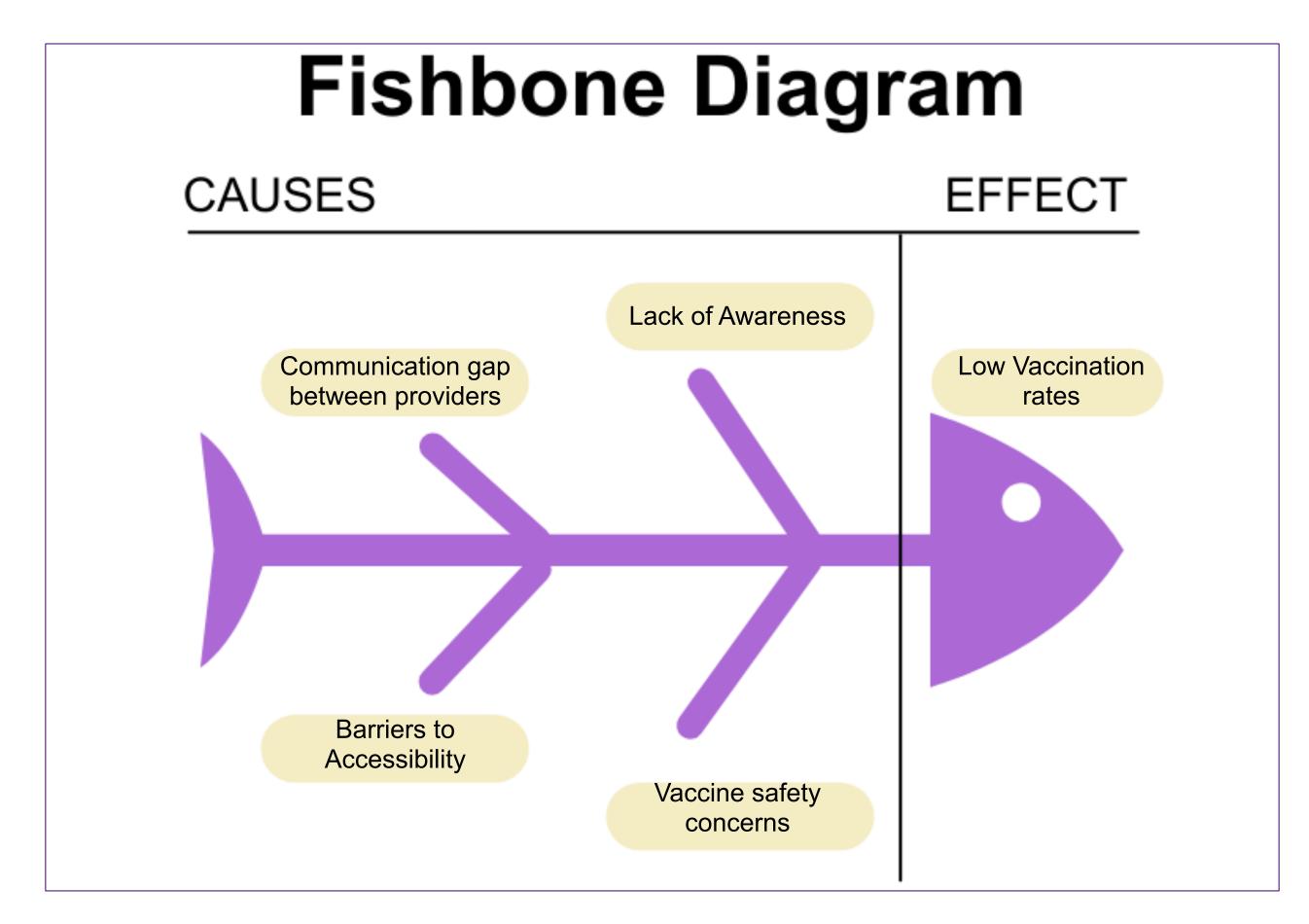
THE PROBLEM



CONSEQUENCES OF LOW INFLUENZA VACCINATION RATES



CAUSE AND EFFECT



PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS



REFERENCES

- Created with <u>BioRender.com</u>
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation 2022 CF Registry report https://www.cff.org/medical-professionals/patient-registry
- Ortiz JR, Neuzil KM, Victor JC, Wald A, Aitken ML, Goss CH. Influenza-associated cystic fibrosis pulmonary exacerbations. Chest. 2010 Apr;137(4):852-60. doi: 10.1378/chest.09-1374. Epub 2009 Dec 4. PMID: 19965953; PMCID: PMC2851556.