Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency: *The Importance of Early Diagnosis*

Dr. Kenneth R. Chapman, MD, FRCPC
Medical Director, Toronto Western Hospital

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD) is a genetic disorder that may lead to serious lung conditions such as emphysema. Those affected by this condition often go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed after respiratory symptoms present.[1]

Symptoms of AATD can present at any age with respiratory symptoms most commonly manifesting in patients aged 30-40.

These symptoms can include[1]:

- ✓ Shortness of breath
- ✓ Coughing
- ✓ Wheezing

According to Dr. Chapman, "We know that lung disease develops gradually in this disorder, and the signs and symptoms may be subtle. Early diagnosis is important, but sometimes difficult."

AATD is a treatable genetic disease. Depending on your age, history & symptoms, it may be recommended to have yourself & your family screened for AATD.[1,2]

For the full program on "Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency: The Importance of Early Diagnosis" with Dr. Kenneth R. Chapman, visit:

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1. Brode SK, et. al., Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency: a commonly overlooked cause of lung disease. CMAJ. 2012 Sep 4;184(12):1365-71. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.111749

2. Marciniuk et. al., Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency targeted testing and augmentation therapy: A Canadian Thoracic Society clinical practice guideline Can Respir J Vol 19 No 2 March/April 2012

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