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AIA32

FOR ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

PROGRAM NEWS STATION WINS

DATE SEPTEMBER 28, 1972 12:21 PM CITY NEW YORK

ASBESTOS CANCER

NEWSCASTER: The delayed effect of asbestos on the human condition can be deadly as Group W science correspondent William Heinz reports.

WILLIAM HEINZ: It's been known for a long time that chronic occupational exposure to asbestos can give rise to serious often fatal illnesses, including cancer of the lung and of the gastrointestinal tract. But now doctors are coming to believe that comparatively brief exposures to high concentrations of this widely used substance can have serious results.

Three radiologists at the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center have discovered signs in chest X-rays in two patients that are strongly indicative of asbestosis, a condition caused by the inhaling of asbestos particles. One patient, a woman, worked briefly in a shipyard in 1945, sweeping up after workmen who installed asbestos installation around pipes in the holes of ships. That was her only apparent exposure to asbestos. Yet nineteen years later in 1964, there were telltale spots on her lungs and six years after that, in 1970, a follow up X-ray showed further signs.

The other patient was a man who worked briefly on a job where asbestos was mixed with cement. That was in 1948, and twenty two years later, in 1970, X-rays revealed clear signs of asbestosis.

The doctors say it is easy enough to pinpoint exposure to asbestos in people who spend their lives working with the material. But when many years pass after an exposure of only a few months, the involvement of asbestos in illness may not be easy to determine.

William Heinz, Group W News, Washington.

Asbestos Information Association trial exhibit AIA-32: Radio TV Reports Transcript of WINS News Story 'Asbestos... Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
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