State of New Jersey

SANATORIUM FOR CHEST DISEASES

GLEN GARDNER

KWS
CLS

SUPERINTENDENT AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR
JOSEPH A. SMITH, M.D., F.A.C.P.

TELEPHONE
HAMPTON 2011

August 8, 1961

Dr. Kenneth W. Smith, Medical Director
Johns-Manville Products Corp.
22 East 40th St.
New York 16, New York

Dear Dr. Smith:

Apropos to our conversation the other day regarding cancer in asbestos, we enclose, herewith, a report of a meeting and a project proposed at this meeting.

I do not know whether this is the study you heard about or not. However, if this is new to you, it is confidential.

Yours very truly,

NEW JERSEY SANATORIUM

Joseph A. Smith, M.D.
Superintendent & Medical Director

JAS:de

[redacted]

Subject: Asbestosis in Passaic County

I. Statement of the Problem

? There appears to be a lack of awareness on the part of physicians, industry, public health officials and the general public as to the injurious effects of inhalation of asbestos dust. It is felt that research in this area is needed; Passaic County, due to the large amount of asbestos used in industry, is particularly suitable for research in this area.

II. Review of Current Literature

A. Projects on Subject

1. Review of article titled "Asbestosis and Abdominal Neoplasms" by J.E. Kaul, M.D., Lancet, December, 1960.

2. Review of article titled "Pulmonary Function in Asbestosis of the Lung" by Mortimer E. Rader, M.D., Richard A. Rader, M.D., and Irving J. Selikoff, M.D., American Journal of Medicine, February, 1961.

III. Basic Assumptions for which Answers will be Sought

A. Inhalation of asbestos dust is injurious to the healthy, as well as, diseased lung.

✓. ✓ B. Asbestosis is a causative factor in pulmonary fibrosis with pulmonary insufficiency; asbestos dust may be a causative agent in lung cancer and abdominal neoplasms.

Eliminates C. There is a "safe" concentration of asbestos dust in atmosphere.

D. The number of work days lost among persons suffering from this disease is high.

E. The progressive nature of this disease precludes the individual from pursuing all types of employment; in many instances, it is necessary for him to give up his occupation because of his condition. — that does it

F. The cost of medical care to the individual, loss of service to his family, and cost to industry, make this a socio-economic problem worthy of attention.

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IV. Objectives of Project (Information expected)

Too broad too many What are the objectives

A. To determine the prevalence of asbestosis in industries using this product in Passaic County.

B. To increase medical knowledge as to the history, physical findings, chest X-ray, and pulmonary function studies in asbestosis.

C. To establish a safe concentration of asbestos dust as a preventive measure.

D. To determine the incidence of pulmonary fibrosis due to inhalation of asbestos dust.

E. To determine the incidence of complications, such as lung cancer, in this group.

F. To determine the prevalence of other lung diseases, such as tuberculosis, among this group.

G. To determine the incidence of exacerbations and their relation to over-exposure to dust, ventilation, pre-existent conditions, etc.

H. To establish the identification of an occupational disease population.

I. To establish the identification of different groups (age, sex, occupation, etc.) of patients for further investigations.

V. Methodology

How - Fees Any Aids Lab. Facilities

A. Sampling Procedure - Since numbers will be small, would probably be best to strive for 100% sample of those persons exposed to asbestos dust.

B. Scope - To include all industries using asbestos in large quantity.

C. Area - Passaic County.

Preliminary steps would include: contact with asbestos suppliers and industries; plan of action - chest X-ray (mobile XRM, county, or commercial unit); pulmonary function equipment (choice of apparatus); questionnaire (what information are we seeking); personnel (physicians, nurses, interviewers, etc.); public relations and publicity; provisions for follow-up or validation of screening findings.

How

VI. Definitions and concepts to be used in project. (To be done, after agreement among all concerned with project has been reached).

VII. Time and cost factors to include physicians; industrial personnel, statistical [illegible], Xrm, PFTM, community resources.

VIII. Interpreting and analyzing data and putting in report form.

What - When - By Whom - Really Why

II. Significance of Findings

The injurious effects of the inhalation of asbestos dust are not known - there is reason to believe that it is a causative agent in lung cancer. The information gained through this study could serve as a guide to all concerned with industrial health. Further, it may be a stimulus to further clinical investigations, research in epidemiology, and public health action on occupational air pollution.

ATmp