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Project No. 5 - Epidemiological study on the biological effects of asbestos dust at the Balangero Mine and among the Port of Genoa and LaSpezia Arsenal insulation workers

Epidemiological study of all workers past and present of the chrysotile mine and of a representative cohort of insulation workers from the shipyards and environmental study of their dust exposure.

Objectives are:

1) Does the inhalation of asbestos fibres bear any relationship with: a) the occurrence of carcinoma of the lung; and/or b) the occurrence of mesothelioma of the pleura and/or the peritoneum?

2) Do people exposed to the inhalation of very low concentrations of asbestos dust, such as workers exposed to concentrations well below any threshold limit or people living in villages in the vicinity of asbestos mines, exhibit an abnormally high incidence of calcified pleural plaques?

3) Do the different types of asbestos behave in the same way in regard to lung cancer, mesothelioma of the pleura and pleural plaques, or is one type of asbestos prevalent among the others as a causative agent?

Cost $85,000.

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