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ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES

At the present time it is recognized that there are four asbestos related diseases.

Asbestosis

Inhaled asbestos fibers cause the disease known as asbestosis which scars the lungs and interferes with the passage of oxygen in the blood. It is non-malignant, but can be disabling and fatal.

Bronchogenic Cancer

An excessive rate of bronchogenic cancer has been noted among asbestos workers. However, recent studies by Selikoff and others indicate the excess may be among only those asbestos workers who smoke cigarettes.

Mesothelioma

This disease is a rare cancer of the lining of the chest (pleura) or the abdominal cavity (peritoneum).

Gastro-Intestinal Cancer

Recently it has been accepted that there is an increased rate of gastro-intestinal cancer among asbestos workers.

FIRST PUBLISHED REPORTS ON ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES

Asbestosis

Merewether, E. R. A. - Report on Effects of Asbestos Dust on the Lungs and Dust Suppression in the Asbestos Industry, July 17, 1930.

Bronchogenic Cancer

Merewether, E. R. A. - "Asbestosis and Carcinoma of the Lung" in Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the Year 1947, London: H. M. Stationery Office 1949.

Mesothelioma

Wagner, J. C., D. A. Sleggs and P. Marchand - "Diffuse Pleural Mesothelioma and Asbestos Exposure in the North Western Cape Province" British Journal Industrial Medicine 1960.

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Gastro-Intestinal Cancer

The first date of publication of evidence of an asbestos relationship to G.I. cancer is difficult to pinpoint. It was mentioned by Newhouse in 1969; McDonald in 1971; and Selikoff in 1972 - See Review of Asbestos Health Literature

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J. H. Marsh, Asbestos Related Diseases (1975)
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