



About Mesothelioma

Information to navigate diagnosis,
treatment, and patient care

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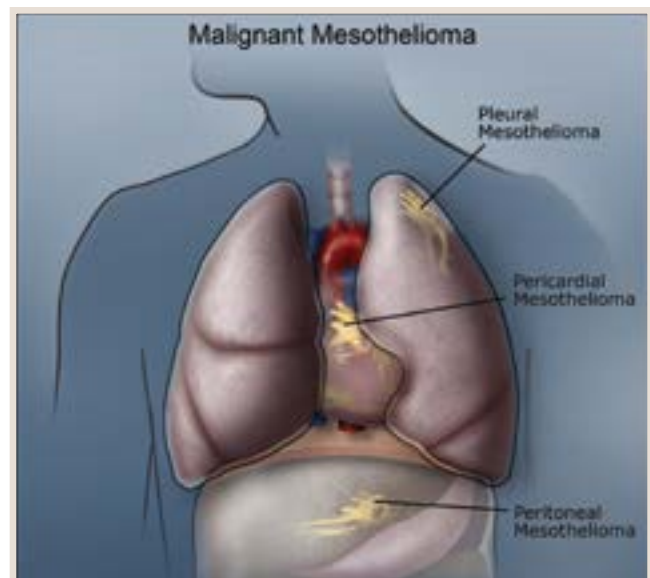
Approximately 3,000 people are diagnosed with mesothelioma each year in the United States.

About Mesothelioma

What Is Mesothelioma?

Malignant mesothelioma is an uncommon, but no longer rare, cancer that is difficult to diagnose and poorly responsive to therapy. Malignant mesothelioma is the most serious of all asbestos-related diseases. A layer of specialized cells called mesothelial cells lines the chest cavity, abdominal cavity, and the cavity around the heart. These cells also cover the outer surface of most internal organs. The tissue formed by these cells is called the mesothelium.

The mesothelium helps protect the organs by producing a special lubricating fluid that allows organs to move around. For example, this fluid makes it easier for the lungs to move inside the chest during breathing. The mesothelium of the chest is called the pleura and the mesothelium of the abdomen is known as the peritoneum. The mesothelium of the pericardial cavity (the “saclike” space around the heart) is called the pericardium. Tumors of the mesothelium can be benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).



A malignant tumor of the mesothelium is called malignant mesothelioma. Because most mesothelial tumors are cancerous, malignant mesothelioma is often simply called mesothelioma. Mesothelioma was recognized as a tumor of the pleura, peritoneum, and pericardium in the late 1700s. It was not until much later, in 1960, that this particular type of tumor was described in more detail and even more importantly, its association with asbestos



exposure was recognized. The first report linking mesothelioma to asbestos exposure was written by J.C. Wagner, and described 32 cases of workers in the “Asbestos Hills” in South Africa. The relationship between mesothelioma and asbestos exposure has been confirmed in numerous studies around the world.

The incidence of mesothelioma in the United States remains very low, with 14 cases occurring per million people per year. Despite these numbers, the noticed threefold increase in mesothelioma in males between 1970 and 1984 is directly associated with environmental and occupational exposure to asbestos, mostly in areas of asbestos product plants and shipbuilding facilities. Although the disease is much more commonly seen in 60-year-old men, it has been described in women and early childhood as well. The cause of the disease is not so well understood in these latter two groups, but there is some evidence of possible asbestos exposure for some of these cases as well.

Malignant mesotheliomas are divided into 3 main cell types. Cell type refers to the appearance of the cancer cells under a microscope. About 50% to 70% of mesotheliomas are the epithelioid type. This type has the best prognosis (outlook for survival). The other 2 types are the sarcomatoid type (7% to 20%), and the mixed/biphasic type (20% to 35%).

About three-fourths of mesotheliomas start in the chest cavity. They are known as pleural mesotheliomas. Another 10% to 20% begin in the abdomen. These are called peritoneal mesotheliomas. Pericardial mesotheliomas, those starting in the cavity around the heart, are very rare. The covering layer of the testicles is actually an out pouching of peritoneum into the scrotum. Mesotheliomas that affect this covering of the testicles are quite rare.

Key Statistics About Mesothelioma

- Mesothelioma is fairly rare. There are approximately 3,000 new cases diagnosed per year in the United States.
- The average age at diagnosis is 50 to 70 years old. The disease affects men 3 to 5 times more often than women. Mesothelioma is less common in African Americans or Asian Americans than in whites and Hispanics/Latinos.
- Mesothelioma is a serious disease. By the time the symptoms appear and cancer is diagnosed, the disease is often advanced. The average survival time is about one year. However, if the cancer is found early and treated aggressively, almost half of the patients whose cancer is found early reach the 2-year mark, and about 20% survive 5 years.
- The 5-year survival rate refers to the percent of patients who live at least 5 years after their cancer is diagnosed. Many of these patients live much longer than 5 years after diagnosis, and 5-year rates are used to produce a standard way of discussing prognosis. Five-year relative survival rates exclude from the calculations patients dying of other diseases, and are considered to be a more accurate way to describe the prognosis for patients with a particular type and stage of cancer. Of course, 5-year survival rates are based on patients diagnosed and initially treated more than 5 years ago. Improvements in treatment often result in a more favorable outlook for recently diagnosed patients.

“ If the cancer is found early and treated aggressively, almost half of the patients whose cancer is found early reach the 2-year mark, and about 20% survive 5 years. ”

Other Asbestos-Related Diseases Include:

Asbestos-Related Lung Cancer - Everyone knows that both asbestos and smoking cause lung cancer. When, however, a history of cigarette smoking is combined with a history of occupational exposure to asbestos, a person is at a much higher risk for developing lung cancer than if he or she was only exposed to asbestos or only smoked cigarettes. The most common asbestos-related cancers are found in present or ex-smokers who have occupational exposure to asbestos. An X-ray often provides the first indication that lung cancer may be present. Additional tests may also be required to confirm a diagnosis including pathology from biopsy or surgical operation. If a person has a lung condition which shows significant exposure to asbestos, e.g., asbestosis or pleural disease, certain other cancers may also be related to asbestos exposure. For example: colon cancer, larynx cancer, esophagus cancer, and pharynx cancer.

Asbestosis - Asbestosis is the scarring of the tissue of the lung itself from inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers. It is usually diagnosed after a patient has undergone a physical examination, X-ray, and a breathing test. While potentially far more serious than pleural disease, asbestosis can present a confusing picture. It is important to note that asbestosis can range in severity from “mild” asbestosis, which causes little, if any, impairment, all the way to “severe” asbestosis, which is horribly disabling and eventually fatal. Many doctors who do not have a good understanding of asbestos-related diseases tend to use the term “asbestosis” as a buzzword for any and all conditions related to asbestos. Asbestosis is commonly referred to as interstitial fibrosis.

Pleural Disease - The pleura is a pair of thin (about one cell thick) membranes that line the chest cavity. The pleura serve the important purpose of providing a lubricated, friction-free surface for the lungs to expand and contract against. Following intense occupational exposure to asbestos, and following a latency period of at least 10 years from the onset of that exposure, pleural changes may begin to appear. These changes can generally be classified as pleural thickening or pleural calcification, more commonly known as “pleural plaques.”

In the vast majority of cases, a person with a pleural condition only will not suffer any significant impairment. Pleural disease is evidence that the individual has sustained a heavy enough response to asbestos to be at substantial risk for more serious disease. A person with a pleural condition needs to be followed and monitored, and have as many rights and options preserved as possible. Occasionally a pleural condition is serious enough to affect the ability of the lung to expand and contract.

“Pleural disease is commonly referred to as pleural plaques, pleural thickening, or pleural calcification.”

What Causes Mesothelioma?

The main risk factor for developing mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos. Asbestos refers to a family of magnesium-silicate mineral fibers. In the past, asbestos was used widely for insulation because it does not conduct heat well and it is resistant to melting or burning. As the link between asbestos and mesothelioma has become well known, the use of this material has decreased. However, up to 8 million Americans may already have been exposed to asbestos.



After these asbestos fibers are breathed in, they travel to the ends of small air passages and reach the pleura where they cause physical damage to mesothelial cells that may result in cancer. In addition, they also cause injury to lung cells that can result in lung cancer and/or asbestosis (replacement of lung tissue by scar tissue). These fibers can

reach the abdominal cavity where they have a role in causing peritoneal mesothelioma. Exposure to asbestos, though mostly occupational, can also be environmental, or familial by household contamination, through the work clothes of an asbestos worker for instance. Beginning 15 years after the onset of exposure, about 6% of asbestos workers die of mesothelioma. In one study of asbestos insulation workers, the occurrence from mesothelioma was 344 times higher than in the general population. (Selikoff IJ et al. Relation between exposure to asbestos and mesothelioma. *NEJM*)

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, as many as 750,000 schools and public buildings in the country today contain asbestos insulation. As many as 10% to 15% of schools in the United States may contain asbestos insulation. People who may be at risk for occupational asbestos exposure include some miners, factory workers, insulation manufacturers, railroad workers, ship builders, gas mask manufacturers, and construction workers, particularly those involved with installing insulation. Several studies have shown that family members of people exposed to asbestos at work have an increased risk of developing mesothelioma, because asbestos fibers are carried home on the clothes of the workers.

There are two main forms of asbestos – serpentine and amphiboles. Serpentine fibers are curly and pliable. Chrysotile is the only type of serpentine

fiber and it is the most widely used form of asbestos. Amphiboles are thin, rod-like fibers of which there are 5 main types: crocidolite, amosite, anthrophyllite, tremolite, and actinolite. Amphiboles (particularly crocidolite) are considered to be the most carcinogenic (cancer-causing). However, even the more commonly used chrysotile fibers have been associated with malignant (cancerous) mesotheliomas and should be considered dangerous as well.

It may be that asbestos causes cancer by physically irritating cells rather than by a chemical effect. When fibers are inhaled, most are cleared in the nose, throat, trachea (windpipe), or bronchi (large breathing tubes of the lungs). Fibers are cleared by sticking to mucus inside the air passages and being coughed up or swallowed. The long, thin, fibers are less readily cleared, and they may reach the ends of the small airways and penetrate into the pleural lining of the lung and chest wall. These fibers may then directly injure mesothelial cells of the pleura, and eventually cause mesothelioma.

Asbestos fibers can also damage cells of the lung and result in asbestosis (formation of scar tissue in the lung), and/or lung cancer. The risk of lung cancer among people exposed to asbestos is increased by 7 times, compared with the general population. Indeed, asbestosis, mesothelioma, and lung cancer are the three most frequent causes of death and disease among people with heavy asbestos exposure. Peritoneal mesothelioma, which forms in the abdomen, may result from coughing up and swallowing inhaled asbestos fibers. Cancers of the larynx,

pancreas, esophagus, colon, and kidney have also been linked to asbestos exposure, but the increased risk is not as great as with lung cancer.

The risk of developing mesothelioma is related to how much asbestos a person was exposed to and how long this exposure lasted. People exposed at an early age, for a long period of time, and at higher levels are most likely to develop this cancer. Mesothelioma takes a long time to develop. The time between exposure to asbestos and diagnosis of mesothelioma is usually between 20 and 40 years.

“ The risk of developing mesothelioma is related to how much asbestos a person was exposed to and how long this exposure lasted. ”

Although the risk of developing mesothelioma rises with the amount of asbestos exposure, it is clear that genetic factors also play a role in determining who develops the disease. This explains why not all persons exposed to high levels of asbestos dust develop mesothelioma.

Symptoms of Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is difficult to diagnose because the early signs and symptoms of the disease can be subtle at best. Symptoms are either frequently ignored or dismissed as common, everyday ailments. Most people with mesothelioma experience symptoms for only 2 to 3 months before a diagnosis is confirmed. About one-fourth have symptoms for at least 6 months prior to their diagnosis.



About 75% to 80% of patients diagnosed with pleural mesothelioma experience a buildup of fluid in the chest cavity. This is also known as pleural effusion. A little over half of the patients experience lower back pain or side chest pain and dyspnea (shortness of breath). Lower numbers of people may experience difficulty swallowing, or have a persistent cough, night sweats, fever, weight loss, or fatigue. Additional symptoms that some patients experience are muscle weakness, loss of sensory capability, coughing up blood, facial and arm swelling, and hoarseness.

Pericardial mesothelioma affects the heart. Many of the symptoms associated with this type of mesothelioma are similar to those described above and include pain, shortness of breath, weight loss, and fatigue. Pericardial mesothelioma patients, however, experience fluid buildup in the pericardial space (pericardial effusion), rather than the chest cavity. Individuals suffering from pericardial mesothelioma may also experience peripheral edema (swelling of the arms and legs), arrhythmia, and other symptoms of cardiac disease.

Peritoneal mesothelioma originates in the abdomen and as a result, symptoms often include abdominal pain, weight loss, nausea, and vomiting. Fluid buildup in the abdomen (ascites) is also very common in those diagnosed with peritoneal mesothelioma.

A person who has been previously exposed to asbestos and is experiencing the symptoms described above should seek medical attention right away.

How long does it take for mesothelioma symptoms to appear?

One of the most unique facts about mesothelioma is that the disease is characterized by a long latency period. The latency period is the amount of time that elapses from the point of asbestos exposure to the point where symptoms begin to appear so that a diagnosis can be made. In some mesothelioma cases the latency period is reported to be 10 years but the average latency for the majority of cases is between 20 and 40 years. As a result, it is common for mesothelioma to progress to the later stages of the disease before being diagnosed.

How Is Mesothelioma Diagnosed?

If there is a reason to suspect you may have mesothelioma, a qualified medical professional will review your medical history, perform a physical examination, and use a variety of diagnostic tests and methods to confirm the presence of the disease.



Medical History and Physical Examination

A complete medical history (interview) is taken to check for risk factors and symptoms. This interview includes questions to determine where asbestos exposure may have occurred as well as the duration and amount of asbestos exposure that the patient was subjected to.

A physical exam will provide information about signs of mesothelioma and other health problems. Patients with pleural mesotheliomas (mesotheliomas of the chest) often have pleural effusion (fluid in their chest cavity) caused by the cancer. Ascites (fluid in the abdominal cavity) in cases of peritoneal mesothelioma, and pericardial effusion (fluid in the pericardium) in cases of pericardial mesothelioma can also be detected during a physical exam. If other symptoms are present, such as shortness of breath, pain, and weakness, they will also be evaluated.

Diagnostic Tests

Imaging Scans

Diagnostic image tests like X-rays, CT scans, MRI scans, and PET scans, are useful tools for detecting the presence of cancer and evaluating the progression of the disease. Each method can provide doctors with different types of information to assist them in making an accurate diagnosis.

X-Ray

Chest X-rays may show irregular thickening of the pleura, pleural calcifications (mineral deposits), lowering of the lung fissures (spaces between the lobes of the lungs), and fluid in the pleural space. These findings suggest asbestos exposure leading to the development of mesothelioma.

CT Scan

A computed tomography (CT) scan uses a rotating X-ray beam to create a series of pictures of the body from many angles. A computer combines these pictures to produce detailed cross-sectional images of a selected part of the body. To highlight details on the CT scan, a patient may be asked for permission to have a contrast dye injected into a vein.

MRI Scan

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a preferred diagnostic tool that mesothelioma doctors use to detect the presence of mesothelioma. MRI uses magnetic fields instead of X-rays to create images of selected areas of the body. It can also be used to identify what stage the cancer has progressed to.

PET Scan

A positron emission tomography (PET) scan is a nuclear medicine imaging technique that provides doctors with a three-dimensional image of an area, as well as information about the function of affect-

ed tissue in that area. A radioactive tracer is used to highlight areas of increased chemical activity in the body. These will appear as “bright spots” on the images. The scan is optimal for staging mesothelioma cancer by detecting the advancement of the disease, or the effectiveness of ongoing treatment in slowing or reducing the growth of the cancer. If other surrounding tissue is affected, then the positron emission tomography will produce an image of the metastasizing or malignant mesothelioma cancer.

Biopsies

A biopsy is an important diagnostic procedure recommended by doctors for patients with a history of prior asbestos exposure that are presenting with signs and symptoms of mesothelioma. Fine needle aspiration is the less invasive type of biopsy that can be performed. More invasive surgical biopsies are recommended if results from a needle biopsy are inconclusive or if a needle biopsy is not recommended for medical reasons.

“ A biopsy is an important diagnostic procedure recommended by doctors for patients with a history of prior asbestos exposure that are presenting with signs and symptoms of mesothelioma. ”

Needle Biopsy

A fine needle biopsy is considered to be a closed biopsy procedure and therefore less invasive than open surgical biopsies. Pleural biopsy is the most common closed biopsy procedure that is performed to aid in the diagnosis of mesothelioma. Other types of closed biopsy procedures include thoracentesis and paracentesis.

Pleural Biopsy

In patients with a pleural effusion, a pleural biopsy may be ordered to obtain a fluid and tissue sample from the pleural membrane and surrounding area to test for the presence of mesothelioma cancer. The test itself can be performed in a radiologist’s or pulmonologist’s office as it is considered a minimally invasive procedure and has few risks associated with it. After using antiseptic solution to cleanse the area where the biopsy will be performed, a local anesthetic drug is injected through the biopsy site into the chest. Next, with the guidance of a CT camera, the radiologist or pulmonologist inserts a special needle into the chest cavity that has the ability to “grab” a small tissue sample of the pleura. The doctor may try to collect as many as 3 samples of tissue and fluid throughout the test to ensure that there is a sufficient specimen sample from which to make an accurate diagnosis.

Thoracentesis

A thoracentesis is performed to obtain a fluid sample from the pleural space in patients that are presenting with excessive fluid buildup in the chest cavity. Those with pleural mesothelioma will often present with this type of symptom and a thoracentesis can both drain excess fluid to make the patient more comfortable and provide a fluid sample to help doctors make a diagnosis.

Paracentesis

Patients with peritoneal mesothelioma often exhibit the symptom of excess fluid buildup in the abdominal cavity. An abdominal paracentesis may be performed to drain excess fluid from the abdomen to help the patient feel better and/or to assist doctors with making a diagnosis after sending a fluid sample to the laboratory.

Surgical Biopsy

Surgical biopsies are open procedures and are more invasive than the aforementioned needle biopsies. As a result, doctors take a more conservative approach with them and prescribe them when the less invasive biopsy procedures yield inconclusive results or if it is indicated that it would not be safe to perform them.

Thoracotomy

A thoracotomy is considered an open surgery. In performing this operation, a surgical incision is made in the chest wall to allow the surgeon to examine the area around the lungs and to obtain a tissue sample from a tumor for further testing and in some cases, remove the entire tumor. Thoracotomy aids in the diagnosis of pleural mesothelioma.

Thoracoscopy

A thoracoscopy, sometimes called video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS), is a diagnostic procedure that is used to help doctors detect the presence of pleural mesothelioma. In this procedure, a thoracoscope (telescope-like instrument connected to a video camera) is inserted through a small incision into the chest. The doctor can see the tumor through the thoracoscope, and can use special forceps to take a tissue biopsy for further analysis.

Laparotomy

Laparotomy surgery is similar to thoracotomy surgery except that the incision is made in the abdomen. This allows the surgeon to examine the fluid and tissue in the area of the peritoneum and if abnormalities are detected, to obtain a biopsy sample for further testing and/or remove the entire tumor if one is present. Laparotomy aids in the diagnosis of peritoneal mesothelioma.

Laparoscopy

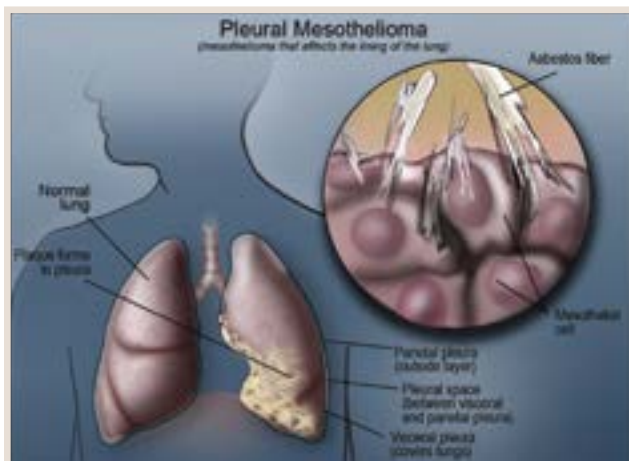
Laparoscopy is a video-assisted procedure that allows surgeons to examine organs in the abdominal region and perform a biopsy of abnormal tissue to aid in the diagnosis of peritoneal mesothelioma.

Mediastinoscopy

Mediastinoscopy allows the surgeon to view the lymph nodes in this area and remove samples to check for cancer. Tests of lymph nodes can give the doctor information about whether a cancer is still localized or if it has started to spread, and can help distinguish lung cancer from mesothelioma. A mediastinal lymph node biopsy is also useful in assessing the appropriateness of more aggressive surgery to remove the cancer.

Types of Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a cancer that affects the mesothelium, a thin protective tissue that lines major organs including the lungs, stomach, and heart. There are 3 primary types of mesothelioma which are defined according to the area of the body where the disease originates. The type of mesothelioma is further classified by the cell type, or the appearance of the cancer cells under a microscope. Pleural mesothelioma originates in the pleura of the lungs, peritoneal mesothelioma originates in the peritoneum of the abdomen, and pericardial mesothelioma originates in the pericardium around the heart.



The onset of mesothelioma is usually very slow. The disease is characterized by a long latency period meaning that it can sometimes take decades for symptoms to develop after someone has been exposed to asbestos. By the time the symptoms are recognized, the disease may have already progressed to more advanced stages.

Mesothelioma by Primary Site Pleural Mesothelioma

Pleural mesothelioma most commonly originates in the thin membrane lining the lungs (pleura). It can also originate in the lining of the chest and diaphragm. Mesothelioma is a very aggressive disease and has the ability to metastasize quickly to other organs.

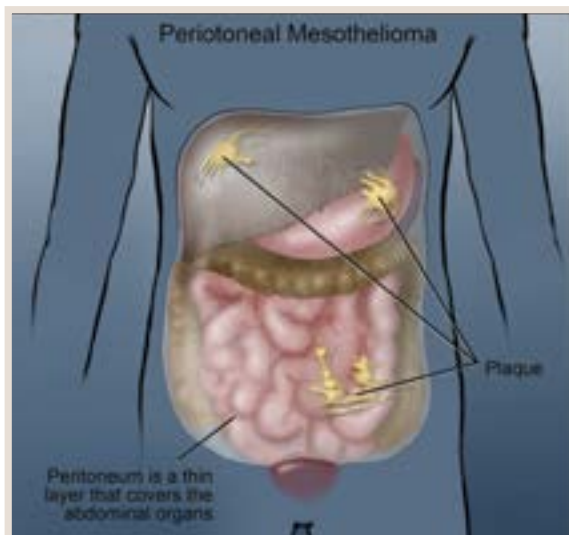
The most common presenting symptom is severe difficulty breathing (dyspnea) due to an accumulation of fluid in the pleural space known as pleural effusion. Patients may also experience persistent pain localized in the chest, back, side, or shoulder. Other symptoms include cough, weight loss, fatigue, and fever.

There are currently no serum markers available for the diagnosis of mesothelioma. The detection of elevated serum levels of hyaluronic acid may be useful in differentiating mesotheliomas from other tumors, or to follow the effect of treatment.

Peritoneal Mesothelioma

Malignant peritoneal mesothelioma is a rare type of cancer that occurs in the thin cell walls which surround the abdominal cavity, known as the peritoneum. This thin membrane acts as a lubricant within the abdominal cavity so that surrounding organs (liver, spleen, or the bowel) and internal body structures may contract and expand within their normal body function.

As with pleural mesothelioma, pain is the most commonly presented complaint. In addition, due to fluid accumulation in the abdominal cavity (ascites), the abdomen appears enlarged. The patients

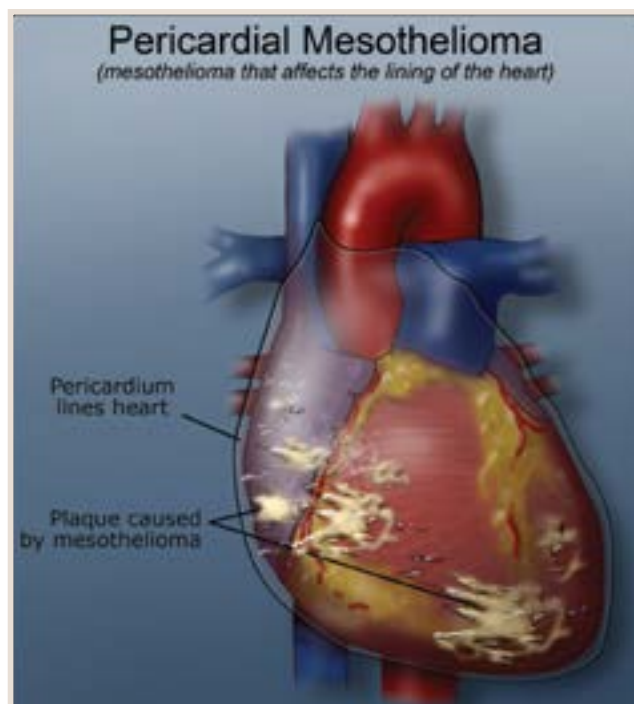


may experience nausea, vomiting, swelling of their feet, fever, and difficulty in moving their bowels. The prognosis for peritoneal mesothelioma can vary greatly based upon the stage when diagnosis has been made and when treatment has begun. In the past, prognosis was often less than 1 year but with advancement of new treatments, namely hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) which combines surgery and heated chemotherapy, survival rates have improved, in some cases by several years.

Pericardial Mesothelioma

Pericardial mesothelioma originates in the pericardium. It is the rarest form of mesothelioma and comprises only 10% of all cases diagnosed each year. Symptoms of pericardial mesothelioma include chest pain, difficulty breathing, fatigue, and fluid buildup around the heart (pericardial effusion), which is very serious.

Echocardiogram and computed tomography diagnostic tests can detect the presence of pleural effusion, a thickened pericardium, and any masses that may be present. The prognosis for pericardial



mesothelioma is very poor. This cancer is often not diagnosed until it has reached advanced stages. If the disease is localized, surgery may be recommended. For the most part, however, palliative care is provided to reduce the severity of symptoms and provide comfort to the patient.

Testicular Mesothelioma

Testicular mesothelioma is diagnosed in less than one percent of all cases and there are only about 100 diagnosed cases described in medical literature. The cancer develops in the tunica vaginalis, the lining of the testicles, and typically presents symptoms like testicle pain, a mass on the testicle, and scrotal swelling caused by fluid buildup.

Patients with this type of mesothelioma have a better life expectancy than other forms, with an average prognosis of about two years. However, studies have shown that testicular mesothelioma does have a high rate of recurrence, including almost 93% of patients within five years of their initial diagnosis.

Mesothelioma by Cell Type

Epithelioid Mesothelioma

This histologic subtype is found in approximately 60% to 70% of mesothelioma cases. It is the most common variation of mesothelioma and carries the most favorable prognosis of the different types of mesothelioma.

Sarcomatoid Mesothelioma

Sarcomatoid mesothelioma accounts for approximately 10% to 15% of all diagnoses. Although it is the least common histologic subtype, it is the most aggressive. The cell structures in this form of mesothelioma are elongated and spindle-shaped, and are not arranged in an organized pattern. Sarcomatoid cells also lack a nucleus, unlike epithelioid cells, which have clearly visible nuclei. The desoplastic variety of sarcomatoid mesothelioma is difficult to distinguish from healthy tissue in many cases, making an accurate diagnosis challenging.

When it comes to diagnosing sarcomatoid mesothelioma, traditional methods of biopsy pose additional challenges; the less-invasive “needle core” method often results in inaccurate information, as sarcomatoid cells are often similar in appearance to benign fibrous tissue. Additionally, histological methods of diagnosis often make it difficult to distinguish between sarcomatoid mesothelioma and other types of unrelated sarcomatoid cancers.

A precise and accurate diagnosis is vital, because a misdiagnosis can lead to an inappropriate course of mesothelioma treatment being prescribed; it is a good idea to get a second and even a third opinion if mesothelioma is suspected. Unfortunately, sarcomatoid mesothelioma is less responsive to standard

chemotherapy treatment than the more common epithelioid mesothelioma. However, some newer and experimental treatments have shown promise in treating this very rare and aggressive cancer.

Biphasic Mesothelioma

This type of mesothelioma is characterized by a mix of epithelioid and sarcomatoid cells. About 10% to 15% of mesothelioma cases are diagnosed with this cell subtype. It is a rarer form of the disease but also carries a less favorable prognosis than epithelial mesothelioma.

Well-Differentiated Papillary Mesothelioma

Well-differentiated papillary mesothelioma (WDPM) is an uncommon variation of epithelial mesothelioma that is frequently diagnosed in women, but has also been clinically diagnosed in men. Papillary mesothelioma tumors generally cause no pain and the mesothelioma prognosis for someone diagnosed with such a tumor is usually very favorable.

Benign Mesothelioma

Benign mesothelioma is much easier to treat than malignant mesothelioma and is often treated successfully. This type of asbestos cancer also differs from the malignant form in that benign tumors do not invade nearby tissues or spread to other parts of the body. Surgical removal of the tumor is the most commonly recommended treatment option.

How Is Mesothelioma Staged?

Staging is the process of finding out how far the cancer has spread. Staging of mesothelioma is based on imaging studies such as X-rays, CT scans, and MRI scans. The treatment and outlook for patients with mesothelioma will typically take into account the cell type, the location of the tumor, and the stage (extent of spread) of their cancer. Since pleural mesothelioma occurs most frequently and has been studied the most, it is the only mesothelioma for which a staging classification consensus exists.

Today, there are 3 primary staging systems used to assess how far mesothelioma cancer has spread and each system uses 4 stages to describe the progression of the disease. It is the definition of each stage within the various systems that can vary slightly.

Butchart Staging System

The staging system most often used for mesothelioma is the Butchart Staging System. This system is based mainly on the extent of the primary tumor mass, and divides mesotheliomas into stages I through IV.

Stage I

Mesothelioma is present within the right or left pleura, and may also involve the lung, pericardium, or diaphragm (the muscle separating the chest from the abdomen) on the same side.

Stage II

Mesothelioma invades the chest wall or involves the esophagus (food passage connecting the throat to the stomach), heart, or pleura on both sides. The lymph nodes in the chest may also be involved.

Stage III

Mesothelioma has penetrated through the diaphragm into the peritoneum (lining of the abdominal cavity). Lymph nodes beyond those in the chest may also be involved.

Stage IV

There is evidence of distant metastases (spread through the bloodstream to other organs).

TNM Staging System

Another staging system, the TNM Staging System, has recently been developed by the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and is similar to staging systems used for most other cancers. T stands for tumor (its size and how far it has spread to nearby organs), N stands for spread to lymph nodes, and M is for metastasis (spread to distant organs).

Stage I

Mesothelioma involves the right or left pleura. It may also have spread into the lining of the lung, pericardium, or diaphragm on the same side. It has not yet spread to the lymph nodes or other areas of the body.

Stage II

Mesothelioma has spread from the pleura to the nearby peribronchial and/or hilar lymph nodes next to the lung on the same side. It may also have spread into the lung, pericardium, or diaphragm on the same side.

Stage III

Mesothelioma has spread into the chest wall muscle, ribs, heart, esophagus, or other organs in the chest on the same side as the primary tumor and may also have spread to the lymph nodes.

Stage IV

Mesothelioma has spread into the lymph nodes in the chest on the side opposite that of the primary tumor, or directly extends to the pleura or lung on the opposite side, or directly extends into the peritoneum, or organs in the abdominal cavity. Any mesothelioma with evidence of distant metastases (spread to other organs through the bloodstream) or spread to organs beyond the chest or abdomen is included in this stage.

Brigham Staging System

The Brigham Staging System defines whether or not surgery is a viable treatment option for a mesothelioma patient and whether or not there is lymph node involvement. It is similar to both the Butchart Staging System and the TNM Staging System in that it defines the progression of mesothelioma in four stages.

Stage I

Mesothelioma is localized in the pleura, lung, pericardium, diaphragm, or chest wall; lymph nodes show no sign of cancer and surgery is an option.

Stage II

Mesothelioma is confined to specific areas as defined in Stage I but cancer has spread to lymph nodes. Surgery is still a viable treatment option in this stage.

Stage III

Mesothelioma is no longer confined as in Stage I and II. It has spread into the chest wall, heart, or through the diaphragm into the peritoneum. Surgery is no longer an option. Cancer may or may not be in the lymph nodes in this stage.

Stage IV

Mesothelioma has spread to other organs and tissues through the bloodstream. Metastatic disease is pervasive in the body.

These staging systems provide doctors with information that allows them to accurately determine a patient's prognosis and assess therapeutic treatment options.

Prognosis and Outlook

When an individual is diagnosed with mesothelioma, one of the first questions he/she asks is “How long do I have to live?” This can be a scary question - and a hard one to ask - but it is one that most cancer patients will seek an answer to. It is often very difficult for oncologists and members of a patient’s medical team to give a definitive answer to this question as every case is different and dependent on a variety of factors.

Overall, the prognosis for mesothelioma patients has not been favorable. Malignant mesothelioma is extremely aggressive and has a long latency period. Hence, most cases are not detected until the disease has reached advanced stages. As a result, the average life expectancy following diagnosis is usually just a year or two. The median survival is about 17 months from the beginning of symptoms. The 3-year survival rate for pleural mesothelioma is 10% and the 5-year survival is approximately 5%. However, that doesn’t mean there aren’t exceptions. The good news is that mesothelioma patient survival has been improving as advances in medical technology lead to earlier detection of the disease, more effective implementation of existing treatment options, and the development of new treatments.

“ Malignant mesothelioma is extremely aggressive and has a long latency period. ”

Determining Prognosis

Currently, a number of different issues determine a mesothelioma patient’s prognosis. These include:

- **Type** - Mesothelioma is classified as 1 of 3 subtypes, depending on the types of cells involved. The epithelial (or epithelioid) subtype accounts for about 50% of all cases, sarcomatoid mesothelioma is seen in 15% of diagnosed patients, and 35% have the mixed or biphasic subtype of the disease (a combination of epithelioid and sarcomatoid variants). Those with epithelial mesothelioma demonstrate a better survival rate than those diagnosed with the more aggressive sarcomatoid or biphasic subtypes.
- **Location** - Mesothelioma is also classified on the basis of location. For example, pleural mesothelioma, which originates in the lining of the lungs, is the most common form of mesothelioma, accounting for approximately 80% of all cases. The median survival rate for malignant pleural mesothelioma from diagnosis is 12 months. Peritoneal mesothelioma originates in the lining of the abdomen, also called the peritoneum. It is the second most common primary location for mesothelioma after the pleura and is diagnosed in about 10% to 20% of mesothelioma victims. Advanced peritoneal mesothelioma can be more difficult to treat and has a lower survival rate. Pericardial mesothelioma originates in the pericardium (the lining of the heart). Although pleural mesothelioma will rarely metastasize to the pericardium, primary pericardial mesothelioma is extremely rare and carries a less favorable prognosis than pleural or peritoneal mesothelioma. Testicular mesothelioma is extremely rare. It originates in the testicular lin-

ing, also called the tunica vaginalis. If diagnosed before any metastasis has occurred, the prognosis for this type of mesothelioma is typically very good with a high survival rate.

- **Stage of the Disease** - The prognosis for mesothelioma depends on how early the disease is diagnosed and how soon treatment can begin. Because the earlier stages often progress with few, if any, detectable symptoms, mesothelioma is often not diagnosed until it has reached Stage III or IV, when the first detectable mesothelioma symptoms typically appear. These symptoms are, often, also common to other diseases including pneumonia, heart conditions, and flu. This may result in an initial misdiagnosis and precious treatment time can be lost. If you believe that you or a family member may have worked with or around asbestos, it is important to provide this information to your doctors as soon as possible.
- **Metastasis** - When a mesothelioma diagnosis is finally made, the doctor (typically a surgeon or oncologist) may perform tests to determine whether the cancer has spread, or “metastasized,” from its primary location to other parts of the body, such as nearby organs and/or lymph nodes.

The extent of the metastasis, if any, will help the doctor to determine the best type of treatment, and can also be a factor in the prognosis. If the cancer has metastasized to other organs and/or the lymph nodes, curative surgical treatment is not typically performed, although this must be determined on a case-by-case basis by the medical team. Chemotherapy may be recommended, or, in some cases, chemotherapy followed by curative surgical treatment, may be an option. If the stage is advanced and/or if the patient is not able to undergo chemotherapy, palliative care may be offered to alleviate symptoms and maximize patient comfort.

Additional Mesothelioma Prognosis Factors

- **Mesothelioma Survival Rate** - Most survival rates for cancer are determined based on a relative 5-year survival rate. This rate indicates the percentage of patients who have survived 5 years after their cancer diagnosis. Currently, the one-year survival rate for mesothelioma patients is about 40%. The 5-year survival rate for mesothelioma victims is about 10%. Both rates have increased significantly in the last 10 years, and are expected to further improve in the coming years with research into new treatments.

- **Mesothelioma Remission** - Mesothelioma is one of the most aggressive types of cancer and can quickly metastasize from its origin into the lungs, abdominal cavity, and lymph nodes. As a result, very few mesothelioma patients go into remission. However, if treated properly and early enough, many patients have been able to extend survival rates long beyond previous expectations.
- **Mesothelioma Cure** - While there is still no cure for mesothelioma, significant advances in mesothelioma research have been made over the past 10 years. As a result, new tests have been developed, and are being developed, to help medical professionals detect the cancer earlier. A wide range of new treatment options are becoming available that may lead to improved life expectancy for mesothelioma victims.

“ **While there is still no cure for mesothelioma, significant advances in mesothelioma research have been made over the past 10 years.** ”

Improving the Mesothelioma Prognosis

During the last decade more research dollars have been directed towards the study of mesothelioma and the discovery of new drugs and novel treatments that offer hope for a better prognosis for mesothelioma patients.

Scientists have been working on new tests aimed at diagnosing mesothelioma at an earlier stage. For example, the Mesomark[®] assay is a simple blood test that measures the rate of soluble mesothelin-related peptides (SMRP) in the blood. This biomarker is released by mesothelioma cells into the bloodstream and SMRP can be elevated for many years before symptoms appear and an actual diagnosis of the disease is made. This tool for early diagnosis, while still in experimental stages, could potentially help to save hundreds of lives.

Each new step in the field of mesothelioma research improves the mesothelioma prognosis little by little and provides additional hope for mesothelioma-affected individuals and their loved ones.

Mesothelioma in Women

Statistically, malignant mesothelioma is a form of asbestos cancer that affects men more often than women. This is not because women are less genetically predisposed to the disease. It is primarily due to the fact that, historically, men were more likely to work at asbestos jobsites which put them in contact with dangerous asbestos. Mesothelioma disease has been diagnosed in women but on-the-job exposure is often not the reason for the development of the disease.

Some studies have also demonstrated that women who develop mesothelioma are much more likely to acquire peritoneal mesothelioma, the abdominal form of the disease, with the risk factors increasing 5-fold with increasing asbestos exposure. This is noted in a study published in the journal *Chest*. While the reasons for this are not yet clear, further studies hope to reveal an explanation.

“ Some women who have been diagnosed with mesothelioma were likely to have received second-hand exposure from their husbands or fathers who worked in jobs where asbestos was used heavily. ”

Reasons for Mesothelioma in Women

Many women were part of the work force during World War II, and some of them were regularly exposed to asbestos while working on Navy ships, or in Navy shipyards, factories, and other locations where asbestos use was prevalent. A number of these women suffered direct asbestos exposure while on the job and developed mesothelioma as a result.

More women, however, were victims of second-hand asbestos exposure. These women were homemakers and did not work outside the home in environments where they could be exposed to asbestos directly. Frequently, however, their husbands or fathers (in their early years) worked in jobs or environments where direct exposure to asbestos was common every day. Very often these men were blue collar workers working in trades such as plumbing, pipefitting, construction, or electrical contracting. These working men brought asbestos dust home on their clothes at the end of every workday and it was the women who were responsible for laundering the clothes. As they shook the dust off the clothes or handled them to put them in the washer, the asbestos dust would enter the air. By breathing the dust in, the women suffered secondhand asbestos exposure. Many of these women were exposed to asbestos in this way repeatedly over many years and have developed mesothelioma as a result. In fact, a 1997 study conducted by Durham (VA) and Duke University Medical Centers was able to identify a history of asbestos exposure in about 75% of the women who participated in their study; more than half of those 75% had suffered asbestos exposure due to household contact with asbestos workers.

Additional Information About Asbestos Exposure, Mesothelioma, and Women

Workplace Exposure

During World War II many women took employment outside the home, many to support the war effort. As a result, a number of women went to work in shipyards, factories, and other locations where they could easily be exposed to asbestos.

Secondary Exposure

Some women who have been diagnosed with mesothelioma were likely to have received second-hand exposure from their husbands or fathers who worked in jobs where asbestos was used heavily.

Susceptibility

It is a myth that women are not susceptible to developing mesothelioma. Historically, not as many women worked outside the home when asbestos use was prevalent. However, those who did were just as susceptible to developing mesothelioma cancer as men.

Studies

Although mesothelioma has historically affected far more men than women, there have been a number of studies conducted that look at the relationship between asbestos exposure and mesothelioma in women.

Ongoing research and treatments like immunotherapy
can give mesothelioma patients hope.

Mesothelioma Treatment

Conventional Therapies

Conventional mesothelioma treatment options include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and immunotherapy. In many cases, doctors recommend multimodal therapy, which is a combination of standard treatments and is often the most effective way to extend life expectancy. Palliative care is also an important option, as it helps relieve symptoms and improve quality of life. When determining the best treatment for mesothelioma, doctors consider the mesothelioma type, cell type, stage of disease, and patient characteristics, such as age, overall health, and personal needs.

Surgery

When an individual is diagnosed with mesothelioma, treatment options are generally one of the first topics discussed with their doctor. For some patients, a surgery-based treatment plan will be recommended. There are different forms of mesothelioma surgery. Curative surgeries aim to remove as much

of the cancer as possible with the goal of extending survival. Palliative surgeries focus on relieving symptoms of the disease in an effort to improve comfort and quality of life.

Curative Surgeries

Due to the nature of mesothelioma and the fact that by the time a diagnosis is made the disease has usually reached an advanced stage, a surgical cure is not a likely option. However, in some cases, surgery is suggested in order to remove as much of the cancer as possible and is often followed by other mesothelioma treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation, and/or immunotherapy.

Common curative types of mesothelioma surgery include:

Pleurectomy/Decortication

Pleurectomy/decortication (P/D) is a lung-sparing surgery used to treat pleural mesothelioma by removing the pleura (lining of the lung) and visible tumors from the chest cavity. The procedure consists of two steps: pleurectomy, which removes the parietal (outer) pleura, and decortication, which



removes the visceral (inner) pleura and cancerous tissue from the lung surface. Extended P/D (ePD) may also involve removal of parts of the diaphragm and pericardium, but unlike extrapleural pneumonectomy (EPP), the lung is preserved. Considered less risky than EPP, P/D is recommended by experts as the first-choice surgical option for mesothelioma and is often combined with chemotherapy or radiation in a multimodal treatment plan. While recovery can be lengthy and risks include blood loss, air leaks, and infections, patients may tolerate further treatments better because both lungs remain intact, making P/D a preferred approach for eligible patients.

Extrapleural Pneumonectomy

Extrapleural pneumonectomy (EPP) is a major surgery for pleural mesothelioma that removes the affected lung, the pleura (lung lining), part or all of the diaphragm, and any impacted portions of the pericardium (heart lining). Once used mainly for early-stage cases, EPP is now typically reserved for patients with later-stage disease where tumors have spread into the lung itself. The procedure is usually performed as part of a multimodal treatment plan, often combined with chemotherapy and radiation

before or after surgery to maximize effectiveness and improve survival. During the operation, surgeons remove visible tumors, affected tissues, and lymph nodes, then reconstruct the diaphragm and pericardium with implants. Patients usually remain in the hospital for one to two weeks before continuing recovery at home, which can take several months.

Peritonectomy

Peritonectomy is a surgical treatment for peritoneal mesothelioma. It is a type of cytoreductive surgery, meaning it removes all visible cancer from the abdominal lining, along with any affected tumors, organs, or tissues. The procedure is most effective when combined with heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC), which circulates heated chemotherapy fluid in the abdomen to destroy remaining cancer cells. This combination is considered the gold standard for eligible patients with this type of mesothelioma and often extends survival by several years compared to chemotherapy alone. Peritonectomy and HIPEC typically take 6–14 hours, require a hospital stay of 10–12 days, and involve several months of recovery. While risks

include bleeding, infection, and digestive complications, research shows that patients undergoing this treatment generally experience better survival, improved quality of life, and fewer side effects than with other therapies.

Palliative Surgeries

Abnormal fluid buildup associated with mesothelioma can cause discomfort and difficulty breathing. Palliative surgical procedures aimed at treating fluid accumulation and relieving symptoms include the following:

Pleurocentesis

Pleurocentesis, also called thoracentesis, is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that removes excess fluid from the pleural area surrounding the lungs. This fluid buildup, known as pleural effusion, is common in malignant pleural mesothelioma and can compress the lungs, causing symptoms like shortness of breath. Pleurocentesis helps relieve these symptoms by draining the fluid with a needle accompanied by either a syringe or a tube.

Paracentesis

Essentially the same procedure as pleurocentesis, a paracentesis is a minimally invasive surgery performed to remove excess fluid from the abdominal cavity. This fluid buildup, called peritoneal effusion or ascites, can cause pain, swelling, breathing difficulties, and other discomforts. Paracentesis is designed to ease these symptoms and improve comfort for patients with peritoneal mesothelioma.

Pleurodesis

Pleurodesis is a more complex surgical procedure that helps manage pleural effusions (excess fluid around the lungs), which are common in patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma. This buildup of

fluid can cause shortness of breath, chest pain, and coughing. The goal of pleurodesis is to prevent the fluid from returning by helping the layers around the lung stick together. It can be performed chemically by injecting a substance such as medical-grade talc or doxycycline into the pleural cavity to trigger a reaction that seals the lung lining, or mechanically by having a surgeon brush the pleural membranes to create scarring and inflammation that cause the layers to adhere to each other. In some cases, rapid pleurodesis offers a faster fluid drainage method and shorter hospital stay. Recovery from this surgery usually takes a few days, with follow-up care focusing on keeping the area clean and gradually resuming normal activities. Overall, pleurodesis can make breathing easier, reduce discomfort, and improve quality of life. In some cases, it may even help patients live longer, making it an important palliative option for managing pleural effusions.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy uses drugs to treat cancer and is a standard option for all types of mesothelioma. It works by damaging and killing rapidly dividing cancer cells, which can slow tumor growth, improve quality of life, and sometimes extend survival. Because chemotherapy can also affect healthy cells, it may cause side effects. Whether a patient is eligible for chemotherapy depends on the type and stage of mesothelioma, as well as overall health.

Chemotherapy can be used in two main ways: therapeutically, to help extend survival, and palliatively, to manage symptoms and relieve discomfort. Treatment with chemotherapy may involve a single drug or a combination of drugs and is often part of a multimodal plan alongside surgery, immunotherapy, or Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields).

Chemotherapy can be delivered systemically, circulating through the bloodstream, or locally, directly applied to the chest (intrapleural) or abdominal cavity (intraperitoneal). Localized methods are often combined with surgery to target remaining cancer cells. For example, heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) used with cytoreductive surgery is the standard for peritoneal mesothelioma, while heated intrathoracic chemotherapy (HITHOC) may follow pleural surgery. Other localized approaches, such as EPIC, NIPEC, and PIPAC, are used in certain cases. These targeted methods may reduce side effects and improve outcomes.

The most common chemotherapy regimen for mesothelioma is Alimta® (pemetrexed) combined with cisplatin, which is FDA-approved for pleural mesothelioma. Doctors may also prescribe other drugs such as carboplatin, gemcitabine, vinorelbine, and mitomycin C. Each drug has its own potential benefits and risks, and treatment plans are tailored to each patient. While chemotherapy does not cure mesothelioma, it can significantly improve quality of life and, in some cases, extend survival by several years.

Patients undergoing chemotherapy may experience side effects such as nausea, vomiting, fatigue, immune suppression, or cognitive changes (“chemo brain”). Localized methods may cause fewer systemic effects. Many side effects can be managed with supportive care and medications, so patients are encouraged to discuss these options with their care team.

Alimta®/Cisplatin

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Alimta® for treating malignant pleural mesothelioma.

In February 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration approved Alimta® (“uh-LIMB-ta”) for treating malignant pleural mesothelioma. Until this juncture, finding a proactive drug treatment for mesothelioma had been rather unsuccessful.

While an increasing number of people worldwide – approximately 31,000 – continue to be diagnosed with mesothelioma annually, medical science has struggled to find improved ways to treat patients. “Throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and really the 1990s, a host of different drugs were tried. Many of these trials... had virtually no effect on the cancer,” said Nicolas Vogelzang, MD, former director of the University of Chicago, who spearheaded evaluation testing of Alimta®/cisplatin.

In the past, patients diagnosed with mesothelioma were treated with the drug cisplatin. On cisplatin, patients survived an average of 9 months. With the introduction of Alimta®, however, sufferers of mesothelioma are now living longer. Use of Alimta® in combination with cisplatin has proven successful. “For the first time ever... a chemotherapeutic regime helps patients with malignant mesothelioma live longer,” said Claude Denham, MD, a study co-investigator for U.S. Oncology and a medical oncologist with Texas Oncology, Dallas, Texas.

When using this “cocktail” of Alimta® and cisplatin, mesothelioma sufferers survived an average of 30% longer than those treated with cisplatin alone. Moreover, 53% of patients treated with Alimta®/cisplatin were alive a year later, compared to 38% treated with cisplatin alone. “Patients clearly live longer with less pain and less shortness of breath,” according to Vogelzang. The most common side effects of Alimta® are described as low white-blood cell count, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, rash, and diarrhea. To combat these side effects, patients are

advised to supplement with folic acid and vitamin B-12 starting the week before their first chemo infusion.

In 2024, the FDA approved another combination treatment using Alimta to treat some cases of mesothelioma. The combination includes Keytruda® (pembrolizumab), an immunotherapy drug, and a platinum-based chemotherapy drug, like cisplatin. This drug combo is approved as a first-line treatment for inoperable cases of pleural mesothelioma.

Radiation

Radiation therapy uses high-energy beams, such as photons or protons, to damage and kill cancer cells, shrink tumors, and relieve symptoms. It is most often used in pleural mesothelioma as part of a multimodal treatment plan with surgery and chemotherapy, and may be given before or after surgery to help prevent the spread of tumors. Radiation can extend survival, improve quality of life, and provide palliative relief for advanced cases by reducing pain and breathing difficulties. Several techniques are available, including 3D conformal radiation therapy (3DCRT), intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT). Proton therapy may also be used, offering fewer side effects but with more limited availability. Eligibility and treatment choices are determined by mesothelioma specialists to balance the potential benefits and risks for each patient.

Although generally non-invasive, radiation can cause side effects such as fatigue, skin irritation, hair loss, and mouth problems, most of which improve after treatment ends. Outcomes depend on factors such as cancer stage, cell type, overall health, and the specific radiation method used. Unlike pleural mesothelioma, radiation is not typically part of a treatment plan for

peritoneal mesothelioma. In other types of mesothelioma, survival after radiation therapy ranges from about two years to more than ten years.

Immunotherapy

Immunotherapy is a newer type of treatment for mesothelioma that helps the body's own immune system find and attack cancer cells. Two FDA-approved options, Opdivo® + Yervoy® and Keytruda® with chemotherapy, have been shown to improve survival and quality of life compared to chemotherapy alone, often with more manageable side effects.

Other promising treatments are being studied, including CAR T-cell therapy, monoclonal antibodies, cancer vaccines, and oncolytic viruses, some of which have shown encouraging results in clinical trials. Immunotherapy may be given alone or combined with surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation as part of a multimodal plan to extend survival. While not every patient is eligible, immunotherapy has already made a meaningful difference for many people with mesothelioma and continues to offer hope for even better treatments in the future.

Multimodal Therapy

Multimodal therapy for mesothelioma combines two or more treatments, such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, or immunotherapy, to give patients the best chance of living longer. This approach, also called combination or trimodality therapy, evolved because single treatments alone were not effective enough.

Doctors tailor multimodal plans to each patient based on cancer type, stage, tumor location, and overall health. For example, some patients may have surgery to remove tumors, followed by

chemotherapy or radiation to target any remaining cancer cells. Others, especially those not eligible for surgery, may benefit from chemotherapy and immunotherapy. For peritoneal mesothelioma, surgery combined with heated chemotherapy (HIPEC) has helped some patients live much longer.

Researchers are also studying newer therapies in clinical trials, such as cancer vaccines, photodynamic therapy, cryotherapy, and Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields). While side effects vary depending on the combination of treatments used, doctors can often manage them with supportive care. Overall, multimodal therapy offers many patients their best chance at longer survival and a better quality of life.

Palliative Therapy

Palliative care for mesothelioma focuses on improving quality of life by managing symptoms, addressing physical and emotional needs, and supporting patients at any stage of their illness. Unlike hospice, it can be used alongside active treatments such as surgery, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or radiation.

Care plans are personalized and may include interventions for breathing difficulties, pain, fatigue, weight loss, cough, constipation, sweating, and fluid buildup, as well as mental health support. Pain management can involve medications, nerve blocks, surgery, or complementary therapies like acupuncture and meditation.

Palliative care is available in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, or at home, and may be provided by a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, and spiritual counselors. Research shows that early palliative care not only eases symptoms and reduces depression but may also extend survival for mesothelioma patients.

Emerging Treatments

Several mesothelioma treatments are still in their experimental stages. These new therapies must be investigated further in clinical trials to determine if they will be beneficial to mesothelioma patients. Learn more about some of these emerging treatments below.



Gene Therapy

Gene therapy for mesothelioma is an experimental approach that modifies genetic material to boost immune responses, restore normal cell function, or increase sensitivity to other treatments, showing early promise as a more targeted alternative to standard therapies.

Photodynamic Therapy

Photodynamic therapy (PDT) is an experimental mesothelioma treatment that uses light-activated drugs to target cancer cells with fewer side effects and, though still in trials, shows early promise in extending survival.

Vaccine Therapy

Vaccine therapy for mesothelioma trains the immune system to recognize and attack cancer cells, with UV1 emerging as a promising option that has shown early benefits when combined with immunotherapy and recently received FDA Fast Track designation.

Treatment by Stage

This section lists typical treatment strategies based on the stage (using the Butchart Staging System) of pleural mesothelioma.



Stage I Mesothelioma

Most patients with Stage I mesothelioma have their cancer surgically removed by pleurectomy/decortication or extrapleural pneumonectomy. The value of adjuvant chemotherapy or radiation therapy (treatments given after surgery) for Stage I mesothelioma is uncertain.

Stages II, III Mesothelioma

Treatment options include palliative and supportive care providing relief of symptoms, such as thoracentesis (to remove fluid accumulation in the chest cavity), operations to remove as much of the tumor as possible in some cases, and radiation therapy or chemotherapy aimed at easing symptoms. Cure is not possible in these stages. Enrollment in clinical trials evaluating the newest treatment possibilities in large medical centers should be considered.

Stage IV Mesothelioma

Because Stage IV mesothelioma cancer has spread to distant organs, a cure is not possible. If any aggressive therapy is used, such as chemotherapy and radiation therapy, the goals should be clear to the patient and family. Enrollment in clinical trials evaluating the newest treatment possibilities in large medical centers should be considered. Supportive care may be the best choice, perhaps in the setting of a good hospice program. Pain management is an important aspect of patient care. It is important for patients to know that medications are available to effectively treat pain due to mesothelioma. Patients should not hesitate to request pain medications or discuss pain control problems with their cancer care team.

Clinical Trials

Studies of promising new or experimental treatments in patients are known as clinical trials. During a course of treatment for lung cancer, the doctor may suggest that a patient take part in a clinical trial of a new treatment. A clinical trial is only done when there is some reason to believe that the treatment being studied may be of value to the patient. Treatments used in clinical trials are often found to have real benefits. There are 3 phases of clinical trials in which a treatment is studied before the treatment is eligible for approval by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).



The purpose of a **Phase I** study is to find the best way to give a new treatment and how much of it can be given safely. Physicians watch patients carefully for any harmful side effects. The research treatment has been well tested in laboratory and animal studies, but the side effects in patients are not completely predictable.

Phase II trials determine the effectiveness of a research treatment after safety has been evaluated in a Phase I trial. Patients are closely observed for an anticancer effect by careful measurement of cancer sites present at the beginning of the trial. In addition to monitoring patients for response, any side effects are carefully recorded and assessed.

Phase III trials require entry of large numbers of patients; some trials enroll thousands of patients. One of the groups may receive standard (the most accepted) treatment, so the new treatments can be directly compared. The group that receives the standard treatment is called the “control group.” For example, one group of patients (the control group) may receive the standard chemotherapy for a certain type of cancer, while another patient group may receive another type of chemotherapy that may or may not contain an investigational drug to see if this improves survival. All patients in Phase III trials are monitored closely for side effects, and treatment is discontinued if the side effects are too severe.

Researchers conduct studies of new treatments to answer the following questions:

- *Is the treatment likely to be helpful?*
- *Does this new type of treatment work?*
- *Does it work better than other treatments already available?*
- *What side effects does the treatment cause?*
- *Do the benefits outweigh the risks, including side effects?*
- *In which patients is the treatment most likely to be helpful?*

However, there are some risks. No one involved in the study knows in advance whether the treatment will work or exactly what side effects will occur. That is what the study is designed to discover. While most side effects will disappear in time, some can be permanent or even life-threatening. Keep in mind, though, that even standard treatments have side effects. Depending on many factors, you may decide that a clinical trial may be beneficial in your case.

Enrollment in any clinical trial is completely up to you. Your doctors and nurses will explain the study to you in detail and will give you a form to read and sign indicating your desire to take part. This process is known as giving your informed consent. Even after signing the form and after the clinical trial begins, you are free to leave the study at any time, for any reason. Taking part in the study does not prevent you from getting other medical care you may need. To find out more about clinical trials, ask your cancer care team.

Among the questions you should ask are:

- *What is the purpose of the study?*
- *What kinds of tests and treatments does the study involve?*
- *What does this treatment do?*
- *What is likely to happen to me with, or without, this new research treatment?*
- *What are my other choices and their advantages and disadvantages?*
- *How could the study affect my daily life?*

- *What side effects can I expect from the study?*
- *Can the side effects be controlled?*
- *Will I have to be hospitalized? If so, how often and for how long?*
- *Will the study cost me anything?*
- *Will any of the treatment be free?*
- *If I am harmed as a result of the research, what treatment would I be entitled to?*
- *What type of long-term follow-up care is part of the study?*
- *Has the treatment been used to treat other types of cancers?*

Current Clinical Trials

ClinicalTrials.gov: A Service of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH)

ClinicalTrials.gov, a primary resource for mesothelioma.com, is a registry of federally and privately sponsored clinical trials that are currently being conducted in the United States and 173 other countries around the world. The site was developed by the U.S. National Institutes of Health in collaboration with all NIH Institutes and the FDA following the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997. ClinicalTrials.gov provides clinical trial information for a wide range of diseases, including mesothelioma. The types of data reported on the site include each trial's objective, whether or not participants are being recruited, progress updates, locations, contact information, and more.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

Being diagnosed with mesothelioma is a life changing event. Patients are suddenly faced with trying to understand a wealth of information about a disease that they may have never heard of before. This may include information about stages of the disease, available treatment options, and overall prognosis.



As you deal with your cancer and the process of treatment, it is important to have honest, open discussions with your cancer care team. You should feel free to ask any question that's on your mind, no matter how trivial it might seem. The following questions are designed to help you prepare for these important discussions with your doctors.

Among the questions you might want to ask are:

- *What kind of mesothelioma do I have?*
- *Has my cancer spread beyond the primary site?*
- *What is the stage of my cancer and what does that mean to me?*

- *Based on what you've learned about my cancer, what is my prognosis?*
- *What treatment options do I have?*
- *What do you recommend and why?*
- *How long have you been treating patients with this type of mesothelioma and what success have you had?*
- *Are there any clinical trials available for me to participate in given my diagnosis?*
- *Are there any risks or side effects associated with the treatment plan you suggest?*
- *What are the chances my cancer will recur (come back) with this treatment plan?*
- *What can I do to prepare for treatment?*

Asking these questions will provide you with a good start to developing open communications with your providers. It is very likely, however, that you will have additional questions of your own. Please think about these in advance and write them down before you get to the doctor's office. We hope that you find this framework useful in establishing a good rapport with your cancer care team so that together you can pursue the most effective course of treatment available.

Mesothelioma Experts

Obtaining the best medical treatment available is a priority for those diagnosed with mesothelioma. Often, the best approach to treating mesothelioma is an interdisciplinary one and can include oncologists, thoracic surgeons, and medical professionals from a variety of other disciplines. To assist you in your search for the best mesothelioma cancer treatment available, we have identified the following top mesothelioma experts in the country.

Dr. Raphael Bueno

Chief of Thoracic Surgery and Vice Chair of Surgery for Cancer and Translational Research at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dr. Raphael Bueno is a surgical oncologist whose work revolves around discovering innovative mechanisms by which to both detect and treat thoracic cancers such as lung cancer and mesothelioma. A graduate of Harvard Medical School (1985) and a Professor of Surgery at Harvard, Bueno is a leader among his peers who was selected as a Castle Connolly Top Doctor in 2013.

Dr. Bueno also serves as the Program and Research Director of the International Mesothelioma Program (IMP) at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. The largest program of its kind in the world, the IMP integrates a clinical program, research program, and support program all aimed at offering patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma the most advanced treatment strategies available.

Widely published in top-rated peer-reviewed medical journals, Dr. Bueno is a noted lecturer sharing his expertise as a thoracic surgeon and serves as a

principal investigator in several ongoing clinical trials that support his ground breaking research dedicated towards advancing the treatment of patients with lung cancer and mesothelioma.

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Dr. Robert B. Cameron

Currently serving as Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, Dr. Robert Cameron is also Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Surgical Oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Cameron earned his medical degree from UCLA where he also completed a general surgery residency. In addition, he completed an oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute as well as a residency in cardiothoracic surgery at Cornell-New York Hospital.

Dr. Cameron has conducted extensive research in the areas of thoracic oncology, thoracic pain management, video-assisted surgery, lung volume reduction surgery, and immunology. He currently participates in a number of professional associations and serves as Director of the UCLA Comprehensive Mesothelioma Program.

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Dr. Raja M. Flores

Dr. Flores is considered a leading expert in the research and treatment of pleural mesothelioma. Currently Chairman for the Department of Thoracic Surgery at the Mount Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Flores is a graduate of New York University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed numerous internships and residencies including a thoracic oncology clinical research fellowship and residency in cardiothoracic surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Flores has led many clinical trials involving the study and treatment of mesothelioma. A notable trial completed by Dr. Flores studied the use of neoadjuvant gemcitabine and cisplatin followed by extrapleural pneumonectomy and high dose radiation to treat malignant mesothelioma. Another clinical trial led by Flores was profiled in *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* and focused on the largest series of cases comparing extrapleural pneumonectomy to pleurectomy decortication. Dr. Flores is a contributor for many peer-reviewed journals and is active in a number of professional organizations.

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Dr. David H. Harpole, Jr.

Dr. Harpole is a Professor of Surgery in the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Duke University Medical Center. He also directs the Surgical Residency Research Fellowship, as well as the Thoracic Oncology Research Laboratory and Biorepository and is a member of the Duke Cancer Institute.

Dr. Harpole earned his medical degree from the University of Virginia and completed a general surgery internship and a thoracic surgical fellowship at the Duke University Medical Center. He also taught at Harvard Medical School and worked at Brigham and Women's Hospital as an Associate in Thoracic Surgery. He also served as a consultant in thoracic surgery at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and was a Staff Thoracic Surgeon at West Roxbury Veterans Medical Center.

His clinical research focuses on general thoracic surgery, thoracoscopic surgery, and benign and malignant lung disease treatment. Dr. Harpole is board certified in thoracic surgery and is a member of a number of professional and medical societies. He is also the author of numerous articles and publications.

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Dr. Hedy Lee Kindler

Dr. Hedy Lee Kindler is an internationally recognized oncologist and leading authority on mesothelioma and gastrointestinal cancers. She earned her medical degree from the State University of New York College of Medicine, followed by residency training at UCLA Health and Montefiore Medical Center, and a fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She currently serves as Director of the Multidisciplinary Mesothelioma Program at the University of Chicago Medicine, where she was also recently appointed Associate Dean for Clinical Science Research, Human Subjects.

A dedicated researcher, Dr. Kindler has led numerous national and international clinical trials, including landmark studies that helped bring new therapies to patients. She has authored more than 220 peer-reviewed publications which have been published in leading cancer-related journals, including the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*, and *The Lancet Oncology*, among others.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Kindler was a past president of the International Mesothelioma Interest Group, serves as an associate editor of *Lung Cancer*, and is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, the NCI Pancreatic Cancer Task Force, and the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology. As a leader in her field, she is frequently invited to speak, having lectured at hundreds of scientific meetings worldwide.

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Dr. Daniel M. Labow

Dr. Daniel Labow is a board-certified surgeon with a specialty in surgical oncology. He currently serves as the Chair of Surgery at Nuvance Health, serving patients in Western Connecticut and the Hudson Valley in New York. Dr. Labow received his medical degree from Brown University followed by a residency in general surgery at University of Chicago Medicine and a fellowship in surgery and surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Labow is a highly experienced cancer surgeon who has earned an international reputation for his pioneering work with heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) to treat metastatic malignancies. This innovative treatment, which delivers heated chemotherapy directly into the abdominal cavity after surgery, has significantly advanced outcomes for patients with cancers of the abdominal (peritoneal) lining, including mesothelioma and other cancers originating in the colon, appendix, ovaries, and gastric system. During his time at Mt. Sinai, Dr. Labow established one of the busiest HIPEC programs in the United States.

He is also skilled in minimally invasive surgical techniques, which often result in smaller incisions, shorter hospital stays, and faster recovery times for his patients. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Labow has published over 75 peer-reviewed articles in leading medical journals, including *Cancer* and the *Annals of Translational Medicine*. Professionally, he has been recognized as one of *New York Magazine*'s Best Doctors and Castle Connolly's Top Doctors.

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Dr. Harvey I. Pass

Dr. Harvey Pass is The Stephen E. Banner Professor of Thoracic Oncology, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. He is considered an expert in the treatment of a number of malignant lung diseases, including mesothelioma. Formerly with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Pass continues his relationship with the NCI and NCI-funded research work in his role as director of the Bellevue Hospital Laboratory, which is home to the Mesothelioma Pathogenesis Program Project.

Dr. Pass has also conducted numerous clinical trials investigating the use of intraoperative photodynamic therapy for the treatment of malignant mesothelioma. He was also the first surgeon in the country to contemplate the use of this form of therapy for patients suffering from thoracic cancers. In addition, he lectures extensively about the dangers of asbestos use, is a keynote speaker at mesothelioma awareness events, and has been published in countless peer-related journals.

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Dr. James F. Pingpank

Dr. James Pingpank, Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and surgical oncologist at UPMC's Hillman Cancer Center, is a leading expert in the treatment of peritoneal mesothelioma. A graduate of The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C., Dr. Pingpank completed his residency at the University of Connecticut, a research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, and a surgical oncology fellowship at the Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Dr. Pingpank's expertise is in regional treatment strategies, in particular, cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC), for patients with primary peritoneal mesothelioma. A noted lecturer and researcher, Dr. Pingpank is actively involved in clinical trials designed to evaluate new treatment options for patients with peritoneal mesothelioma and his work has been published in numerous peer-reviewed medical journals.

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Dr. Lary A. Robinson

As Director of the Lung Cancer Early Detection (LEAD) Center at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida, Dr. Lary Robinson is an expert in the evaluation and treatment of all stages of mesothelioma. Dr. Robinson earned his medical degree from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri and completed an internship at Duke University Medical Center. After serving as a flight surgeon for the U.S. Air Force he completed a fellowship in surgery research and a residency in general and thoracic surgery at Duke University.

Dr. Robinson has served on the Science Advisory Board of the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation and works on numerous cancer research programs focused on advanced lung cancer and surgical treatment of mesothelioma. He has also authored and co-authored many books, articles, and research papers and has been published in the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*.

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Dr. Anne S. Tsao

Dr. Anne Tsao is the Mesothelioma Program Director at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center where she specializes in treating mesothelioma and other thoracic cancers. A graduate of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, Dr. Tsao is board certified in medical oncology and internal medicine.

Dr. Tsao has been involved in a large number of clinical trials and has conducted much scientific research aimed at identifying new mesothelioma treatment protocols. Her work has been widely published in both scientific and medical journals. She is also the recipient of a number of awards including the American Society of Clinical Oncology Merit Award and the MD Anderson Achievement in Research Award.

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Dr. Claire Verschraegen

A native of Belgium and currently the Diane Nye and Michael Rayden Chair in Innovative Cancer Research and Professor of Internal Medicine at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Director of the Division of Medical Oncology and Associate Director of the Translational Research Program at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), Dr. Claire Verschraegen is a leading expert in the treatment of peritoneal mesothelioma. Prior to her current position, Dr. Verschraegen served as a Professor of Medicine at the University of Vermont and Director of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the Vermont Cancer Center. Dr. Verschraegen has expertise in hematology and oncology and has been involved in numerous clinical trials to evaluate the effectiveness of new chemotherapy drugs on this rare type of mesothelioma cancer. She also specializes in gynecological and appendiceal cancer and devotes much of her time researching new and emerging drugs that may be used to treat these diseases as well.

Dr. Verschraegen is board certified in medical oncology and internal medicine in both the United States and Belgium. As a member of the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, she has appeared as a keynote speaker at numerous symposiums and conferences. She is a Fulbright Scholar and is the author of many peer-reviewed articles and scientific papers.

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Dr. Stephen C. Yang

Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery, Surgical Director of the Lung Transplantation Program, and Surgical Director of the Thoracic Oncology Program at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr. Stephen Yang has strong expertise in diagnosing and treating diseases of the lung and chest including mesothelioma and lung cancer. He is also an Associate Professor of Surgery and Oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Dr. Yang earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia, completed his surgical residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, a fellowship at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and a cardiothoracic fellowship at the Medical College of Virginia. He is board certified in thoracic surgery and is a member of the International Association for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Dr. Yang has completed extensive research relating to the early diagnosis of lung cancer and esophageal cancer as well as multi-modal approaches to treating the diseases. He also has expertise with video-assisted thoracic surgery, robotic assisted thoracic surgery, and lung volume reduction surgery for those diagnosed with emphysema. He is also the author of a large number of scientific articles and abstracts.

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Mesothelioma Doctor Directory

We have become familiar with medical doctors who specialize in aggressively treating malignant mesothelioma. Some of these doctors will review your medical records for free to see if you are a candidate for their mesothelioma treatment protocol. Please visit our website at www.mesothelioma.com for the most up-to-date doctor directory listing.

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Siteman Cancer Center
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Billings, MT 59101
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Benefis Health System
Sletten Cancer Institute
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Great Falls, MT 59405
406.731.8200

Nebraska

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Nebraska Medical Center
505 S 45th Street
Omaha, NE 68105
402.559.5600

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Chief, Thoracic Surgery
CHI Health Clinic Thoracic Surgery
Henry Lynch Cancer Center
7500 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE 68124
402.398.6749

Rudy P. Lackner, MD
Thoracic Surgeon
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center
Nebraska Medical Center
505 S 45th Street
Omaha, NE 68105
402.559.3232

Nevada

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Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
Central Valley Treatment Center
3730 S Eastern Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89169
702.952.3400

New Hampshire

Konstantin H. Dragnev, MD
Medical Oncologist/Hematologist
Norris Cotton Cancer Center
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
1 Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH 03756
603.650.6345

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Coastal Cardiothoracic and Vascular
Surgery
333 Borthwick Avenue
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Portsmouth, NH 03801
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Thoracic Oncology Program
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603.650.8537

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New Brunswick, NJ 08903
732.235.6780

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Thoracic Surgeon
Valley-Mount Sinai Comprehensive
Cancer Care
1 Valley Health Plaza
Paramus, NJ 07652
201.634.5722

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Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Cancer Center at RWJ Hamilton
2575 Klockner Road
Hamilton Township, NJ 08690
609.631.6960

New Mexico

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University of New Mexico
Comprehensive Cancer Center
1201 Camino de Salud NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505.272.4946

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Thoracic Surgeon
University of New Mexico
Comprehensive Cancer Center
2211 Lomas Boulevard NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
505.272.1623

New York

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NYU Langone Medical Center
Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone
Long Island Surgical Oncology Associates
120 Mineola Boulevard, Suite 320
Mineola, NY 11501
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NYU Langone Medical Center
NYU Cardiothoracic Surgery Associates
530 1st Avenue, Suite 9V
New York, NY 10016
212.263.0420

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Chair, Department of Thoracic Surgery
Mount Sinai Medical Center
1470 Madison Avenue
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Medical Oncologist
Hematology and Oncology
at New York-Presbyterian Queens
56-45 Main Street
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718.670.1180

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Vice Chair, Research
Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery
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530 First Avenue
Skirball 9V
New York, NY 10016
212.731.5414

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Director, Pulmonary Oncology Program
NYU Langone Health
NYU Medical Oncology Associates
160 E 34th Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10016
212.731.6162

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Thoracic Surgeon
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Ruttenberg Treatment Center
1470 Madison Avenue, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10029
212.241.9502

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Director, Thoracic Surgery Laboratory
Chair, Department of Thoracic Surgery
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer
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Elm and Carlton Streets
Buffalo, NY 14263
716.845.2300

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WMCHHealth Physicians Advanced
Hematology and Oncology, Hawthorne
19 Bradhurst Avenue
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North Carolina

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20 Duke Medicine Circle
Durham, NC 27710
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20 Duke Medicine Circle
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Chief Medical Officer
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UNC Lineberger Comprehensive
Cancer Center
UNC Hospitals Adult Oncology Clinics
N.C. Basnight Cancer Hospital
101 Manning Drive, Second Floor
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
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Comprehensive Cancer Center
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27157
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Village Surgical
1841 Quiet Cove
Fayetteville, NC 28304
910.323.2626

North Dakota

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Medical Oncologist/Hematologist/
Palliative Medicine Specialist
Sanford Roger Maris Cancer Center
820 4th Street N
Fargo, ND 58102
701.234.6161

Robert Sticca, MD
Surgical Oncologist
Sanford Broadway Clinic
801 Broadway N
Fargo, ND 58102
701.234.2251

Ohio

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Director, Thoracic Oncology Center
The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center
300 W 10th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
614.366.7744

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10201 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106
866.223.8100

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The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center
2121 Kenny Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210
800.293.5066

Oklahoma

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503.494.5058

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Casper, WY 82609
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Meredith & Jeannie Ray Cancer Center
255 N 30th Street
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307.742.7586

Mesothelioma Cancer Center Directory

Top cancer centers for mesothelioma treatment have been listed alphabetically by state for your convenience. Listings include contact information as well as physical address. Please visit our website at www.mesothelioma.com for the most up-to-date cancer center directory listing.

Alabama

O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at The University of Alabama at Birmingham
1824 6th Avenue S
Birmingham, AL 35233
205.801.9034

The Kirklin Clinic of UAB Hospital
2000 6th Avenue S
Birmingham, AL 35233
205.934.3411

Alaska

Alaska Oncology & Hematology, LLC
2925 Debarr Road, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99508
907.279.3155

Alaska Regional Hospital Cancer Center
2801 DeBarr Road
Anchorage, AK 99508
907.264.1722

Providence Cancer Center at Providence Alaska Medical Center
3851 Piper Street, U Tower
Anchorage, AK 99508
907.212.6870

Arizona

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center at Banner Boswell
10401 W Thunderbird Boulevard Suite 300
Sun City, AZ 85351
480.256.6444

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center at Banner Gateway Medical Center
2946 E Banner Gateway Drive
Gilbert, AZ 85234
480.256.6444

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center at Banner – University Medical Center
Phoenix
925 E McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85006
480.256.6444

City of Hope Phoenix
Phoenix Cancer Center
14200 W Celebrate Life Way
Goodyear, AZ 85338
833.486.2052

Mayo Clinic Hospital – Phoenix
5777 E Mayo Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85054
480.342.2000

University of Arizona Cancer Center
3838 N Campbell Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719
520.694.2873

Arkansas

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute
449 Jack Stephens Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
501.296.1200

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Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
8700 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90048
310.423.3277

City of Hope
Comprehensive Cancer Center
1500 E Duarte Road
Duarte, CA 91010
855.476.1836

Ridley-Tree Cancer Center
540 W Pueblo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805.879.0670

Salk Institute
10010 N Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, CA 92037
858.453.4100

Sanford Burnham Prebys
10901 N Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, CA 92037
858.646.3100

St. Joseph Hospital Orange
1100 W Stewart Drive
Orange, CA 92868
714.771.8000

Stanford Cancer Institute
875 Blake Wilbur Drive
Stanford, CA 94305
650.498.6000

UC Irvine
Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
200 S Manchester Drive
Orange, CA 92868
714.456.8000

UCLA Health
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center
757 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095
310.825.9111

UC San Diego
Moores Cancer Center
3855 Health Sciences Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093
858.534.5555

UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion
Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
1600 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
888.689.8273

University of Southern California (USC)
Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center
1441 Eastlake Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90033
800.872.2273

Colorado

UCHealth Lung Cancer Clinic – Anschutz Medical Campus
1665 Aurora Court
Anschutz Cancer Pavilion
2nd Floor
Aurora, CO 80045
720.848.9264

Connecticut

Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital
85 Retreat Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
860.972.4183

Praxair Cancer Center at Danbury Hospital
95 Locust Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810
203.739.7029

Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven
35 Park Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203.688.4242

Delaware

Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute
4701 Ogletown-Stanton Road
Newark, DE 19713
302.733.4673

Florida

Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center
4500 San Pablo Road
Jacksonville, FL 32224
904.953.2000

Moffitt Cancer Center
Magnolia Campus
12902 USF Magnolia Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
888.717.0146

Orlando Health Cancer Institute
Rod Taylor Thoracic Care Center
22 W Underwood Street, 4th Floor
Orlando, FL 32806
407.648.5384

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Miami Health System
1475 NW 12th Avenue, 1st Floor
Miami, FL 33136
305.243.1000

Georgia

City of Hope Cancer Center Atlanta
600 Celebrate Life Parkway
Newnan, GA 30265
877.461.2997

Emory Winship Cancer Institute
1365 Clifton Road NE, Building C
Atlanta, GA 30322
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Wellstar Georgia Cancer Center
1411 Laney Walker Boulevard
Augusta, GA 30912
706.721.6744

Hawaii

University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
701 Ilalo Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
808.586.3010

Idaho

St. Luke's Cancer Institute: Boise
100 E Idaho Street
Boise, ID 83712
208.381.2711

Illinois

City of Hope
Cancer Center Chicago
2520 Elisha Avenue
Zion, IL 60099
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Endeavor Health
Cancer Center – Naperville
120 Spalding Drive, Suite 111
Naperville, IL 60540
630.646.2273

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer
Center of Northwestern University
Galter Pavilion
675 N St. Clair Street, 21st Floor
Chicago, IL 60611
312.695.0990

Rush MD Anderson Cancer Center
1520 W Harrison Street
Joan and Paul Rubschlager Building
Chicago, IL 60607
312.226.2371

Simmons Cancer Institute
315 W Carpenter Street
Springfield, IL 62702
217.545.8000

The University of Chicago Medicine
Comprehensive Cancer Center
Duchossois Center for Advanced
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5758 S Maryland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637
855.702.8222

Indiana

Columbus Regional Hospital
Cancer Center
2400 E 17th Street
Columbus, IN 47201
812.376.5550

Indiana University Melvin and Bren
Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center
535 Barnhill Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202
888.600.4822

Purdue University Center for
Cancer Research
Hansen Life Sciences Building
201 S University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907
765.494.9129

Iowa

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, IA 52242
800.777.8442

Kansas

Cancer Center of Kansas
Heritage Plaza Medical Building
818 N Emporia, Suite 403
Wichita, KS 67214
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The University of Kansas Cancer Center
Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Care
Pavilion
2650 Shawnee Mission Parkway
Westwood, KS 66205
913.588.7750

Kentucky

UK Markey Cancer Center
800 Rose Street
Lexington, KY 40536
859.257.4488

University of Louisville Health –
Brown Cancer Center
529 S Jackson Street
Louisville, KY 40202
502.562.4673

Louisiana

The Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center
Ochsner Medical Center
1515 River Road
New Orleans, LA 70121
866.624.7637

Willis-Knighton Cancer Center
2600 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71103
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Maine

MaineHealth Maine Medical
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22 Bramhall Street
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MaineHealth Thoracic Surgery –
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Maryland

National Cancer Institute
Center for Cancer Research
Building 31, Room 3A11
31 Center Drive
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240.760.6400

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive
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The Johns Hopkins Hospital
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building
401 N Broadway Street
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410.502.1033

University of Maryland Marlene and
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Cancer Center
22 S Greene Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
410.328.7609

Massachusetts

Brigham and Women's Hospital
International Mesothelioma Program
75 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02115
617.732.6824

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
450 Brookline Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
877.442.3324

Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer
Research
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
500 Main Street, Building 76
Cambridge, MA 02139
617.253.6403

Massachusetts General Hospital
Cancer Center
Center for Thoracic Cancers
55 Fruit Street
Boston, MA 02114
866.493.1612

Michigan

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute
Wayne State University
4100 John R Street
Detroit, MI 48201
800.527.6266

Henry Ford Cancer Institute
2800 W Grand Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48202
888.246.6424

Trinity Health Cancer Center –
Ann Arbor Campus
5303 Elliott Drive
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
743.712.1111

University of Michigan Health
Rogel Cancer Center
1500 E Medical Center Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
800.865.1125

UPHS – Marquette Cancer Center
850 W Baraga Avenue, Suite 31
Marquette, MI 49855
906.449.3000

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19229 Mack Avenue
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313.647.3000

Minnesota

M Health Fairview Masonic Cancer Clinic
909 Fulton Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612.676.4200

Mayo Clinic Cancer Center
200 First Street SW
Rochester, MN 55905
507.284.2511

Mississippi

The University of Mississippi
Medical Center Cancer Institute
2500 N State Street
Jackson, MS 39216
888.815.2005

Missouri

Missouri Baptist Medical Center
Cancer Center
3015 N Ballas Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
314.996.5151

Saint Louis University Cancer Center
3655 Vista Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63110
314.617.2000

Siteman Cancer Center
Washington University Medical Campus
Gary C. Werths Building
4500 Forest Park Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63110
800.600.3606

The University of Kansas Cancer Center
8700 N Green Hills Road
Kansas City, MO 64154
913.574.2520

Montana

Benefis Health System
Sletten Cancer Institute
1117 29th Street S
Great Falls, MT 59405
406.731.8200

Billings Clinic Cancer Center
801 N 29th Street
Billings, MT 59101
406.238.2500

Nebraska

CHI Health Henry Lynch Cancer
Center at CUMC - Bergan Mercy
7500 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE 68124
402.717.2273

University of Nebraska Medical Center
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center
505 S 45th Street
Omaha, NE 68105
402.559.5600

Nevada

Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada
Central Valley Treatment Center
3730 S Eastern Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89169
702.952.3400

New Hampshire

Coastal Cardiothoracic and Vascular
Surgery
333 Borthwick Avenue, Suite 402
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603.559.4111

Norris Cotton Cancer Care Pavilion
Lebanon
Barbara E. Rubin Building
1 Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH 03756
603.650.4344

New Jersey

Jack & Sheryl Morris Cancer Center
165 Somerset Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732.235.2465

Valley-Mount Sinai
Comprehensive Cancer Care
1 Valley Health Plaza
Paramus, NJ 07652
201.634.5339

New Mexico

UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center
1201 Camino de Salud NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505.272.2839

New York

Columbia University Herbert Irving
Comprehensive Cancer Center
1130 St. Nicholas Avenue
2nd Floor, Room 201
New York, NY 10032
212.305.5098

Hematology and Oncology
Associates of CNY
5008 Brittonfield Parkway
East Syracuse, NY 13057
315.472.7504

Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive
Cancer Center
1575 Blondell Avenue
Bronx, NY 10461
718.862.8840

Mount Sinai
Ruttenberg Treatment Center of
The Tisch Cancer Institute
1470 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10029
212.241.6756

NYU Langone Medical Center
Perlmutter Cancer Center
160 E 34th Street
New York, NY 10016
212.731.6000

University of Rochester Medical Center
Wilmot Cancer Institute
90 Crittenden Boulevard
Rochester, NY 14642
585.275.5830

Weill Cornell Medicine
Hematology and Oncology
at New York-Presbyterian Queens
56-45 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355
718.670.1180

WMCHealth Physicians Advanced
Hematology and Oncology, Hawthorne
19 Bradhurst Avenue
Suite 2100N
Hawthorne, NY 10532
914.493.8375

North Carolina

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
Comprehensive Cancer Center
1 Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27157
336.716.9253

Duke Cancer Center Thoracic Clinic
Duke Cancer Center
20 Duke Medicine Circle
Clinic 3-2
Durham, NC 27710
919.668.6688

UNC Lineberger
Comprehensive Cancer Center
N.C. Basnight Cancer Hospital
101 Manning Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
866.869.1856

North Dakota

Sanford Broadway Clinic
801 Broadway N
Fargo, ND 58102
701.234.2000

Sanford Roger Maris Cancer Center
820 4th Street N
Fargo, ND 58102
701.234.6161

Ohio

Case Western Reserve University
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center
Wolstein Research Building, Suite 1422
2103 Cornell Road
Cleveland, OH 44106
216.368.1122

Cleveland Clinic
Taussig Cancer Center
10201 Carnegie Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44195
866.223.8100

Mercy Health –
St. Joseph Warren Hospital Cancer Center
667 Eastland Avenue
Warren, OH 44484
330.841.4177

The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and
Richard J. Solove Research Institute
460 W 10th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
800.293.5066

Oklahoma

OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center –
Thoracic Cancer Clinic
800 NE 10th Street, Suite 2C
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
405.271.5600

Oregon

OHSU Knight Cancer Institute,
Marquam Hill
Kohler Pavillion
808 SW Campus Drive
Second Floor
Portland, OR 97239
503.494.5058

Pastega Regional Cancer Center
441 NW Elks Drive
Corvallis, OR 97330
541.768.7722

Providence Cancer Institute
Franz Clinic
4805 NE Glisan Street
Suite 11N-1
Portland, OR 97213
503.215.5696

Pennsylvania

AHN Cancer Institute –
Allegheny General
314 E North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412.359.3731

Fox Chase Cancer Center
Temple Health
333 Cottman Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19111
888.369.2427

Penn Medicine
Abramson Cancer Center
Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine
West Pavilion
3400 Civic Center Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA, 19104
215.615.5858

Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
Abramson Cancer Center
51 N 39th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.662.9801

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center
Jefferson Health
Honickman Center
1101 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
800.533.3669

Temple Lung Center
Temple University Hospital
3401 N Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140
800.836.7536

The Wistar Institute Cancer Center
3601 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.898.3700

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
5115 Centre Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412.692.4724

Rhode Island

Brown University Health Cancer Institute
110 Lockwood Street
Providence, RI 02903
401.793.2920

South Carolina

MUSC Hollings Cancer Center
86 Jonathan Lucas Street
Charleston, SC 29425
843.792.9300

South Dakota

Avera Cancer Institute – Sioux Falls
1000 E 23rd Street, Suite 340
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605.322.3000

Sanford Cancer Center
1309 W 17th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605.328.8000

Tennessee

Baptist Cancer Center Memphis
6029 Walnut Grove Road, Suite 305
Memphis TN 38120
901.226.0533

Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center
116 N Pauline Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901.523.8990

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
262 Danny Thomas Place
Memphis, TN 38105
866.278.5833

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
2220 Pierce Avenue
Nashville, TN 37232
615.936.8422

Texas

Baylor Scott & White Clinic – Temple
2401 S 31st Street
Temple, TX 76508
254.724.2111

Lung Institute at Baylor College of Medicine
General Thoracic Surgery (Clinic)
Baylor Medicine at McNair Campus
7200 Cambridge Street
Houston, TX 77030
713.798.6376

Mays Cancer Center
UT Health San Antonio/
MD Anderson Cancer Center
7979 Wurzbach Road
San Antonio, TX 78229
210.450.1000

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
2002 Holcombe Boulevard
Houston, TX 77030
713.791.1414

The University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Thoracic Center
1515 Holcombe Boulevard
Main Building, Floor 9
Houston, TX 77030
844.511.0125

UT Southwestern Medical Center
Hamon Center for Therapeutic
Oncology Research
6000 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75390
214.648.4900

UT Southwestern Medical Center
Harold C. Simmons
Comprehensive Cancer Center
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75390
214.645.8300

Utah

Huntsman Cancer Institute
2000 Circle of Hope Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84112
801.587.7000

Jordan Valley Cancer Center
Holy Cross Hospital
3592 W 9000 S, Suite 200
West Jordan, UT 84088
801.562.8732

Vermont

University of Vermont Cancer Center –
UVM Cancer Treatment Center
111 Colchester Avenue
Main Campus, Main Pavilion, Level 2
Burlington, VT 05401
877.540.4673

Virginia

Mary Washington Virginia
Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery
1101 Sam Perry Boulevard
Suite 211
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540.372.7792

UVA Health
Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center
1240 Lee Street
Charlottesville, VA 22908
434.956.8567

VCU Massey Cancer Center
Adult Outpatient Pavilion
1001 E Leigh Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804.828.7999

Virginia Oncology Associates
Brock Cancer Center
6251 E Virginia Beach Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23502
757.466.8683

Washington

Fred Hutch at UW Medical Center –
Montlake
1959 NE Pacific Street
Seattle, WA 98195
206.598.3300

Swedish Cancer Institute Treatment
Center
Swedish First Hill Campus
1221 Madison Street, 3rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104
206.386.2525

Washington, D.C.

Georgetown Lombardi
Comprehensive Cancer Center
3800 Reservoir Road NW
Washington, D.C. 20057
202.444.2223

MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at
MedStar Washington Hospital Center
110 Irving Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20010
202.877.6998

West Virginia

St. Mary's Medical Center
2900 First Avenue
Huntington, WV 25702
304.526.1234

WVU Cancer Institute at
J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital
Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center
1 Medical Center Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505
304.598.4500

Wisconsin

Clinical Cancer Center –
Froedtert Hospital
8800 W Doyle Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53226
414.805.0505

UW Health
Carbone Cancer Center
600 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53792
608.915.0100

Wyoming

Big Horn Basin Cancer Center
1025 9th Street
Cody, WY 82414
307.578.2800

Meredith & Jeannie Ray Cancer Center
Ivinson Memorial Hospital
255 N 30th Street
Laramie, WY 82072
307.742.7586

Rocky Mountain Oncology
6501 E 2nd Street
Casper, WY 82609
307.235.5433

Alternative Treatments

Traditional mesothelioma treatment plans involve chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, or a combination of all three. Many individuals suffering from mesothelioma choose to couple the traditional forms of mesothelioma treatment with alternative options.

Alternative treatments that may benefit individuals who suffer from asbestos cancer include:

Acupuncture

Acupuncture is often used as a palliative therapy, involving the insertion of very narrow needles into the skin at specific pressure points. This has been proven to relieve pain in many individuals suffering from a wide variety of ailments, including mesothelioma.

Aromatherapy

This method of therapy involves the use of aromatic oils, plants, and other substances to be used in conjunction with massage and/or baths. These fragrances can result in a heightened mood, which can promote good health and pain relief.

Healing and Therapeutic Touch Therapy

Healing and therapeutic touch therapy is an emerging therapy that is becoming more widely used by cancer patients. This therapy invokes the relaxation response and can help lessen the negative side effects associated with conventional cancer treatments.

Health Coaching

Health coaching can help mesothelioma patients enjoy better quality of life, lessen pain and stress, and make important lifestyle changes that can help speed up recovery from their cancer treatment.

Herbal & Nutritional Supplements

Nutritional supplements can work in conjunction with herbal remedies to support the body through illness and aggressive treatments like chemotherapy.

Homeopathy

Many cancer patients, including those battling malignant mesothelioma, have turned to homeopathy because it is a natural alternative to aggressive conventional cancer treatment drugs and can help manage the adverse side effects associated with them.

Lymph Drainage Therapy

Manual lymph drainage therapy is a technique that uses very gentle manipulation to help reduce swelling in the body after surgery or radiation treatment in mesothelioma cancer patients.

Massage

Massage therapy is the practice of hands-on physical manipulation of the body's soft tissue. Massage can be both relaxing and pain-relieving. Massage methods include Acupressure, Anma, and Balinese, all of which have differing effects on the body. Massage is often used during treatments for certain health conditions, like cancer, to ease muscle tension and induce relaxation.

Meditation

Meditation is the process of moving into deep relaxation. It is therapeutic in the sense that it can help patients develop a calm mind to make sound decisions and be at peace with health conditions they may have, including cancer like mesothelioma.

Naturopathy

Naturopathy is an alternative paradigm of medicine that focuses on nature's remedy and the body's intrinsic ability to heal itself. Naturopathy favors a holistic approach to treating illnesses like mesothelioma through the use of mineral, diet, and lifestyle-based remedies.

Osteopathy

Osteopathy is a complementary therapy that mesothelioma cancer patients find helpful for reducing stress, fatigue, and some of the unpleasant side effects of chemotherapy.

Reiki

Reiki promotes a deep sense of relaxation and well-being and is an alternative therapy that many mesothelioma cancer patients are now using as part of their overall treatment plan.

Why Should I Consider Alternative Treatments?

When paired with traditional treatment methods, alternative options can be an important component of a mesothelioma treatment plan. These alternative methods are most helpful controlling pain and maintaining balance and peace within an individual's mind and body. Many patients find treatments, such as massage or meditation, to be a welcome distraction from the ongoing cycle of hospital visits, medication, and general stress associated with a cancer diagnosis.

It is very important to consult with your physician before pursuing any new form of treatment. A doctor will be able to determine whether or not a patient is healthy enough to incorporate alternative treatment practices into their already-established treatment plan.

“When paired with traditional treatment methods, alternative options can be an important component of a mesothelioma treatment plan.”

Mesothelioma is caused by the **inhalation of asbestos particles from dusty environments.**

Asbestos Exposure and Mesothelioma

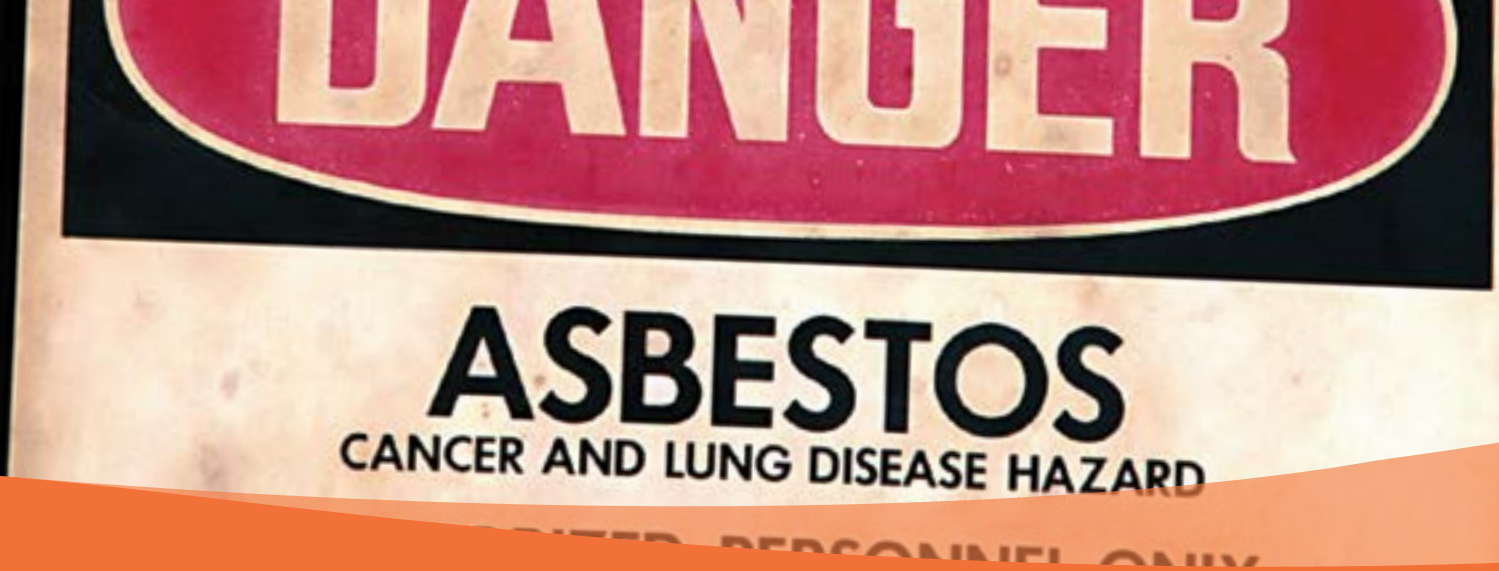
What Is Asbestos?

Asbestos refers to a set of 6 naturally occurring, fibrous minerals. Asbestos has 6 primary sub-classifications. These are chrysotile, crocidolite, amosite, anthophyllite, tremolite, and actinolite. Among these, chrysotile and amosite asbestos are the most common.

Asbestos fibers are microscopic but extremely durable and resistant to fire and most chemical reactions and breakdowns. For these reasons, asbestos was used for many years in a number of different commercial and industrial capacities. Because of its strength and resistance to heat, asbestos was used in roofing shingles, floor tiles, ceiling materials, cement compounds, textile products, and automotive parts. Asbestos is now strictly regulated as asbestos exposure is associated with a number of lung and respiratory health conditions.



Asbestos use was discontinued in the late 1970s upon being found to be a hazard to human health. Today, asbestos is classified as a known human carcinogen. The durability properties, which made asbestos so desirable to manufacturers, are those which make asbestos hazardous. Asbestos fibers are microscopic (roughly .02 the diameter of a human hair) and therefore, are easily inhaled. Once



inhaled, the fibers cling to the respiratory system, including the lining of the lungs and inner cavity tissue. As asbestos fibers are typically quite rigid, they lodge easily in the soft internal tissue of the respiratory system and are not easily expelled or broken-down by the body.

Asbestos use was prominent until its hazards became clear in the late 1970s. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people were exposed to the mineral in some capacity. There is no safe type of asbestos and no safe level of exposure. Nearly all those with exposure history are potentially at risk of serious respiratory health complications.

There were hundreds of occupations affected by asbestos exposure. Asbestos was used in thousands of commercial products and industrial capacities and those working with the material in these industries are potentially at risk of harmful exposure. Industries in which asbestos use was particularly prevalent include shipbuilding, commercial product manufacturing, power plants, and construction.

Workers employed in these industries prior to 1980 likely encountered asbestos products.

While asbestos exposure is hazardous, not all asbestos products are inherently hazardous. Because asbestos must be inhaled to represent a health risk, only loose asbestos fibers or those in the air supply (a condition known as friable) represent a true hazard. Stable asbestos compounds, such as intact cement, tiles, or other products are generally not an immediate hazard.

Exposure to friable asbestos fibers was common when grinding, chipping, demolishing, or retrofitting asbestos products. Each of these functions could potentially release asbestos into the air supply where it would be easily inhaled.

Who Is at Risk?

If you worked in any of the following trades or professions, you may be at risk to develop asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma.

- Aeronautical Engineers
- Aircraft Mechanics
- Asbestos Plant Workers
- Automobile Mechanics
- Blacksmiths
- Boilermakers
- Brick Masons and Stone Masons
- Bulldozer Operators
- Cabinetmakers
- Carpenters
- Car Shop Workers
- Chemical Technicians
- Civil Engineers
- Clothing Ironers and Pressers
- Construction Workers
- Crane, Derrick, and Hoist Men
- Draftsmen
- Drill Press Operatives
- Drywall Tapers
- Electric Power Linemen
- Electrical and Electronic Engineers
- Electricians
- Engineers
- Excavating Machine Operators
- Filers, Polishers, Sanders, Buffers
- Firefighters
- Forge Men and Hammer Men
- Freight and Material Handlers
- Garage Workers
- Grinding Machine Operatives
- Hairdressers and Cosmetologists
- Heavy Equipment Mechanics
- Home Inspectors
- HVAC Workers
- Industrial Engineers
- Industrial Plant Workers
- Insulators
- Iron Workers
- Job and Die Setters
- Laborers
- Locomotive Engineers
- Longshoremen and Stevedores
- Loom Fixers
- Machine Operatives
- Machinists
- Maintenance Workers
- Mechanical Engineers
- Mechanics and Repairmen
- Merchant Marines
- Metal Lathers
- Millwrights
- Mixing Operatives
- Molders
- Oil Refinery Workers
- Operating Engineers
- Painters
- Pattern and Model Makers
- Pipefitters
- Plasterers
- Plumbers
- Power Plant Workers
- Railroad Workers
- Road Machine Operators
- Rollers and Finishers
- Roofers and Slaters
- Sailors and Deckhands
- Sales Engineers
- Sawyers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Shipyard Workers
- Stationary Engineers
- Steamfitters
- Structural Metal Craftsmen
- Teachers
- Telephone Installers and Repairmen
- Textile Operatives
- Tile Setters
- Tinsmiths
- Tool and Die Makers
- U.S. Navy Veterans
- Weavers
- Welders and Flame-cutters
- Winding Operatives

Where Does Exposure Occur?

You may have been exposed to asbestos at any number of locations. Asbestos can be found in and was used at the following broad categories of jobsites:

- Aircraft Carriers
- Air Force Bases
- Aluminum Plants
- Banks
- Brewing Companies
- Chemical Plants
- Churches and Synagogues
- Construction Sites
- Destroyers
- Dry Cleaners
- Factories
- Fire Departments
- Garages
- Government Buildings
- Hospitals
- Hotels
- Manufacturing Plants
- Merchant Marine Ships
- Mills
- Naval Bases
- Navy Ships
- Oil Refineries
- Power Plants
- Railroad Stations
- Refineries
- Residential Homes
- Schools and Colleges
- Shipyards
- Stadiums
- Steel Mills
- Stores
- Town Halls

Exposure at Shipyards



Many of our clients were exposed to asbestos at shipyards across the country. During the construction and maintenance of American warships and other large vessels, shipyard workers and military personnel were commonly exposed to asbestos-containing boilers, wall

insulation, turbines, pipe covering, pumps, gaskets, cement, and other asbestos-containing products.

For your convenience, we have collected a list of some of the major shipyards across the United States of America. Those who worked at these shipyards are at risk to develop asbestos-related diseases, including malignant mesothelioma and asbestos cancer.

Alabama

- Alabama Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Company
- Bender Shipbuilding & Repair Company
- Gulf Shipbuilding Corporation

Alaska

- Seward Marine Industrial Center
- Seward Ship's Drydock

California

- Bethlehem Steel Shipyard – San Francisco, CA
- Bethlehem Steel Shipyard – Terminal Island, San Pedro, CA
- Consolidated Steel Shipyard
- Hunters Point Naval Shipyard
- Kaiser Shipyard
- Long Beach Naval Shipyard
- Mare Island Naval Shipyard
- Marinship Corporation
- Moore Dry Dock Company
- National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO)
- Naval Base San Diego
- Naval Operating Base Terminal Island
- Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach – Fallbrook, CA
- Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach – Norco, CA

- Permanente Metals Corporation, No. 1 Yard
- Permanente Metals Corporation, No. 2 Yard
- Richmond Shipyard
- Rough & Ready Island
- San Diego Naval Shipyard
- San Francisco Dry Dock Company
- Southwest Marine Shipyard
- Todd Shipyards – Alameda, CA
- Todd Shipyards – Los Angeles, CA
- Todd Shipyards – Oakland, CA
- Todd Shipyards – San Francisco, CA
- Todd Shipyards – San Pedro, CA
- Treasure Island Naval Station
- U.S. Naval Station
- Western Pipe & Steel Company
- Western Shipyard

Connecticut

- Electric Boat Shipyard
- General Dynamics Electric Boat
- Groton Naval Base
- Naval Submarine Base New London
- Thames Shipyard

Delaware

- Dravo Shipyard
- North Carolina Shipbuilding Company

Florida

- Atlantic Dry Dock
- Bellinger Shipyard
- Gulf Marine Repair
- Hendry Corporation
- Hooker's Point Yard
- Mayport Naval Station
- Offshore Shipbuilding
- Tampa Bay Shipbuilding
- Tampa Shipyards, Inc.

Georgia

- Southeastern Shipbuilding Corporation

Hawaii

- Honolulu Shipyard
- Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

Illinois

- Chicago Bridge & Iron Company
- Naval Station Great Lakes

Louisiana

- Avondale Shipyards, Inc. – Algiers, LA
- Avondale Shipyards, Inc. – Baton Rouge, LA
- Avondale Shipyards, Inc. – New Orleans, LA
- Avondale Shipyards, Inc. – Westwego, LA
- Bollinger Shipyard
- Conrad Industries
- Delta Shipbuilding Company

Maine

- Bath Iron Works Corporation
- New England Shipbuilding Company
- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Maryland

- Bethlehem Steel Fairfield Shipyard
- Bethlehem Steel Key Highway Shipyard
- Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point Shipyard
- Curtis Bay Shipyard
- Key Highway Shipyard
- Maryland Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Company

Massachusetts

- Bethlehem Hingham Shipyard
- Boston Navy Yard
- Charlestown Navy Yard
- Fore River Shipyard
- General Ship Corporation

Michigan

- Defoe Shipbuilding Corporation
- Defoe Shipyard

Mississippi

- Ingalls Shipyard
- Naval Station Pascagoula
- Trinity Marine Group

New Jersey

- Federal Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.
- New York Shipbuilding Corporation
- Todd Shipyards

New York

- Bethlehem Steel Shipyard
- Brooklyn Navy Yard
- Caddell Dry Dock & Repair Company
- GMD Shipyard
- Todd Shipyards

North Carolina

- North Carolina Shipbuilding Company

Ohio

- The American Shipbuilding Company

Oregon

- Albina Shipyards
- Astoria Marine Shipyard
- Cascade General Inc.
- Dyer Shipyard
- Gunderson/FMC Shipyard
- Kaiser Shipyard
- Northwest Marine Iron Works
- Oregon Shipbuilding Company
- Portland Ship Repair Yard
- South Portland Shipyard
- Swan Island Shipyard
- Tongue Point Naval Shipyard

“...the people with the heaviest exposure are those who have worked in asbestos industries, such as shipbuilding and insulation.”

—American Cancer Society

- Willamette Iron and Steel Works
- Willamette Shipyard

Pennsylvania

- Key Highway Shipyard
- Penn Shipbuilding
- Philadelphia Naval Shipyard
- Sun Shipbuilding

Rhode Island

- Naval Air Station Quonset Point
- Naval Station Newport

South Carolina

- Braswell Services Group
- Carolina Shipping Company
- Charleston Naval Shipyard
- Charleston Shipbuilding & Drydock Company
- Detyens Shipyard

Texas

- American Bridge Shipyard
- AMFELS
- Barbas Cut Docks
- Bethlehem Steel Shipyard
- Bloodworth Shipyard
- Brown Shipbuilding Company
- Consolidated Shipyard
- Consolidated Steel Shipbuilding

- Galveston Docks
- Houston Shipyards
- Kane Shipbuilding
- Naval Station Ingleside
- Orange Shipbuilding Company
- Pennsylvania Shipyards
- Port Adams Shipyard
- Texas Boats of Freeport
- Todd Shipyards

Virginia

- Colonna's Shipyard
- Lyon Shipyard
- Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek
- Newport News Shipbuilding
- Norfolk Naval Shipyard
- Norfolk Ship Repair Company (NORSHIPCO)
- Richmond Shipyards

Washington

- Bremerton Naval Shipyard
- Duwamish Shipyard
- Kaiser Shipyard
- Lake Union Drydock Company
- Lake Washington Shipyards
- Lockheed Shipbuilding
- Naval Station Everett
- Puget Sound Bridge & Dredge Shipyard
- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
- Tacoma Boatbuilding Company
- Todd Shipyards – Seattle, WA
- Todd Shipyards – Tacoma, WA
- Vancouver Shipyard
- Voyage Repair Station

Washington, D.C.

- The Washington Navy Yard

Products That Contain Asbestos

This abridged list is provided to give you a sampling of the wide variety of common items that contained asbestos. We have the most complete database of asbestos-containing products and the dates when they were used at particular jobsites to help us in the preparation of your case.

Adhesives, Cements, Sealers

- Adhesives
- Bonding Cement
- Caulking
- Cement
- Duct Adhesive
- Finishing Cement
- Furnace Cement
- Insulating Cement
- Joint Cement
- Masonic Cement
- Mastics
- Mortar
- Plastic Cement
- Sealer

Asbestos Paper, Rollboard, Millboard

- Asbestos Paper
- Corrugated Paper
- Flexboard
- Millboard
- Permaboard
- Rollboard
- Vinyl Wallpaper

Cars, Brakes

- Brake Linings
- Brake Pads
- Brakes
- Clutch Linings
- Disc Brakes
- Drum Brakes
- Elevator Brake Shoes
- Transmission Plates

Cement Pipes, Cement Boards, Sheets

- Asbestos Board
- Asbestos Sheets
- Cement Pipes
- Stone Sheathing

Electrical, Mechanical Products

- Boilers
- Cables and Wires
- Electric Boards
- Furnaces
- Gaskets
- Heating Ducts
- Generators
- Pumps
- Turbines
- Valve Rings
- Valves

Flooring, Tiles

- Ceiling Tiles
- Floor Tiles
- Flooring
- Linoleum Floors
- Tiles
- Vinyl Floors
- Wall Tile

Home Use Products

- Agricultural Filler
- Attic Insulation
- Cigarette Filters
- Crock Pots
- Fertilizer
- Iron Rests
- Ironing Board Covers
- Makeup
- Potting Mixtures
- Stove Hoods
- Stove Mats
- Talcum Powder

Insulation, Pipe Covering

- Block Insulation
- Duct Insulation
- Insulation
- Pipe Insulation
- Preformed Pipe Wrap
- Wiring Insulation

Laboratory Equipment

- Aprons
- Beaker Tongs
- Centrifuges
- Diffuser Mats
- Filters
- Fume Hoods
- Glassware Insulation
- Gloves
- Lab Coats
- Laboratory Hoods
- Sleeves
- Transite Boards

Packing, Packing Materials, Plastics

- Braided Packing
- Packing Material
- Plastics
- Rope Packing
- Sheet Packing

Panels, Wallboard, Wallcoverings

- Acoustical Panels
- Drywall
- Marine Panel
- Panels
- Sheetrock
- Wallboard

Plasters, Paints, Clay, Compounds

- Acoustical Plaster
- Asphalt
- Filler
- Finish
- Joint Compound
- Paint
- Patching
- Plaster
- Putty
- Spackling Compounds

Protective Clothing

- Aprons
- Asbestos Helmets
- Dust Masks
- Face Masks
- Glassblowers' Mitts
- Laboratory Gloves
- Mitts & Mittens
- Respirators

Protective Coatings, Fireproofing

- Asbestos Curtains
- Asbestos Spray
- Boiler Coating
- Fire Blankets
- Fire Dampers
- Fire Doors
- Fireproofing Cement
- Fireproofing Materials
- Insulation Jacketing
- Roof Coating
- Textured Coatings
- Weathercoating

Raw Asbestos

- Asbestos Fiber
- Fake Snow
- Raw Asbestos
- Silicate Calsilite
- Transite
- Vermiculite

Refractory Products

- Castables
- Firebrick
- Marinite
- Refractory Cement
- Refractory Products

Roofing, Shingles, Siding

- Cement Siding
- Flashing
- Roof Coating
- Roofing
- Roofing Felt
- Shingles
- Siding
- Stucco
- Tar Paper

Rope, Wick, Cord, Tape, Cork

- Asbestos Cord
- Asbestos Rope
- Cork Covering
- Sheet Rope
- Tape
- Wicking

Textiles, Felts, Cloth

- Asbestos Blanket
- Asbestos Canvas
- Asbestos Cloth
- Asbestos Felt
- Asbestos Lap
- Asbestos Wool
- Asbestos Yarn
- Lagging
- Roving
- Textiles

Talcum Powder and Asbestos Exposure

Talc is a naturally occurring mineral often found near asbestos deposits. During mining and processing, talc can become contaminated with asbestos fibers. When used in talcum powder products, this contamination exposes consumers to asbestos. Studies have documented cases where cosmetic talc was the only known source of asbestos exposure, especially among women diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Cosmetic Products Containing Talc

Asbestos-contaminated talc has been a part of many cosmetics and personal care items such as baby powders, body powders, and makeup. Well-known brands, including Johnson & Johnson, Avon, Colgate-Palmolive, and Old Spice, have faced lawsuits for asbestos-related risks in their talc-based products. People who use contaminated cosmetics for a long time might not realize they're breathing in asbestos fibers. This makes cosmetic talc an overlooked but significant source of exposure.

“ Use of cosmetic talc is often overlooked as a source of asbestos exposure. All individuals with mesothelioma should have a comprehensive history of asbestos exposure, including cosmetic talc exposure. ”

—*Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology* (2023)

Companies That Sold Asbestos-Contaminated Talc in Makeup

- Avon Products®
- Coty® (Pfizer®)
- Cover Girl®
- Estée Lauder®
- L'Oréal®
- Mary Kay®
- Maybeline®
- Merle Norman®
- Noxell
- Revlon®

Cosmetic Talc-Containing Products

- Blush
- Bronzer/Highlighter
- Concealer
- Eye Shadow
- Facial Powder
- Foundation
- Setting Powder/Spray

Talc-Containing Body Powders & Manufacturers

- Cashmere Bouquet® – Colgate-Palmolive
- Clubman® – American International Products
- Gold Bond® – Chattem
- Jean Naté® – Revlon
- Johnson's® Baby Powder, Shower-to-Shower® – Johnson & Johnson
- Old Spice®, Shulton Co. – Proctor & Gamble

Large Talc Miners/Suppliers

- Cimbar® Performance Minerals
- Imerys®/Cyprus Mines
- Luzenac
- R.T. Vanderbilt®
- Whittaker, Clark & Daniels®

Industrial Talc Products

- Caulk
- Ceramics
- Glazes
- Paint
- Paper
- Plastics
- Roofing
- Rubber
- Sealants



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Your Legal Rights

Why you should pursue your legal rights and what they are...

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Approximately 3,000 people are diagnosed with mesothelioma each year in the United States.

Your Legal Rights

Why Protect Your Rights

It has well been proven that the sole cause of mesothelioma is asbestos, unlike many other forms of cancer which may have numerous causal factors. A person can be – and often was in the past – exposed unknowingly to asbestos while working in their trade or profession. Some people were exposed to asbestos dust in a social environment such as their home or school.

Asbestos Companies Had Knowledge of the Dangers of Asbestos

While many people are initially hesitant to pursue a legal action, the benefits of doing so can have a positive impact in a number of ways. Many of the asbestos companies knew of the hazards of asbestos as far back as the 1930s and 1940s, yet failed to take the necessary precautions to notify or protect workers for decades.

A volume of evidence documenting the negligence of these companies exists including medical literature, records from trade associations, internal corporate documents/memorandums, testimonies of company employees, (de)classified military records, and other incriminating documents which evidence corporate knowledge of the hazards of asbestos. Despite such knowledge of the harms of asbestos and the awareness that asbestos could cause irreparable lung damage, these companies failed to protect or notify workers until the late 1970s/early 1980s of the dangers of asbestos. Until this point, however, many asbestos manufacturers actively conspired to keep knowledge of the hazards of asbestos a secret. Moreover, it was not until a prompting by the federal government in the late 1970s that many of the asbestos companies addressed the health concerns related to asbestos exposure.



Treatment for Mesothelioma Is Expensive

Receiving a diagnosis of mesothelioma is difficult and overwhelming for loved ones, requiring immediate decisions related to medical care and treatment. Compounding this anxiety, however, are financial concerns related to medical care. More specifically, will private insurance, Medicare/Medicaid, and VA, etc. cover the necessary costs of medical care and treatment?

Conventional treatment options for mesothelioma include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and multimodal therapy. Emerging treatments include gene therapy, photodynamic therapy, and vaccine therapy. There are also various holistic or alternative medicine treatments to consider. Whatever treatment is pursued, however, the medical costs and related expenses (e.g., air travel, hospital parking, meals, lodging, co-pays, dietary restrictions/requirements, etc.) can be quite high. Repeated hospital stays, scans, X-rays, blood work, etc. may be required as medical care progresses. Temporary/permanent nursing care may be needed

at some point in the future. Medical equipment (e.g., hospital bed, wheelchair, oxygen, walker, etc.) may need to be purchased to modify the home for safety reasons.

As costs for medical care and treatment continue to rise nationally, insurers are now limiting or rejecting what is deemed a “covered expense.” As a result, treating doctors are limited in terms of the medical care and treatment options they provide to those suffering from mesothelioma. Generic medication is being dispensed in lieu of brand-name medication to save on insurance costs. Moreover, follow-up medical tests (e.g., PET scans, etc.) are done with less frequency to save on insurance costs.

Exercising your legal right to compensation can help defray the costs associated with mesothelioma treatment. Those diagnosed with mesothelioma should receive the very best medical care and attention. Cost should not be a factor in determining what care is received.

Protect Your Loved Ones

Once a diagnosis of mesothelioma is rendered by a treating doctor, mesothelioma patients and their families suffer greatly and experience ongoing loss, both economic and non-economic. Economic loss includes the financial damages from the illness (e.g., cost of medical care and treatment, lost wages, loss of household services, and other miscellaneous expenses). Non-economic loss can include loss of love, companionship, enjoyment of life, pain and suffering, and anxiety/stress.

Pursuing a legal claim can alleviate many of the financial burdens related to medical bills, loss of income, and present financial obligations. Additionally, lawsuit settlement proceeds can be used to provide financial security for loved ones (e.g., a spouse, child, grandchild, etc.) in the future. By pursuing a legal claim, you can protect your family from being strapped with future financial burdens.

Settlement funds received from pursuing a legal claim can impact greatly on the degree of medical care and services received and allow for the very best treatment. Moreover, settlement funds can allow you and your family to maintain your

current lifestyle (e.g., mortgage/rent, car payment, living expenses, etc.). Most significantly, settlement funds can provide a sense of financial security for your family by ensuring that they will be financially stable in the future.

Seek Quality Legal Representation

If you do commit to pursuing a legal claim, you should select a law firm that is dedicated to providing competent and compassionate legal counsel to mesothelioma clients and their families. The firm you choose should have specific experience handling mesothelioma cases and should have a proven track record of securing high settlement values on behalf of their clients.

More importantly, the firm you choose should not allow the legal process to interrupt or impede your medical care or treatment in any way. Those working on your behalf should always have your health and treatment concerns at the forefront of their thoughts. Lastly, they should strive to make the legal process a low-stress affair for both you and your family to every extent possible.

What to Expect

It has well been proven that the sole cause of mesothelioma is asbestos. A person can be exposed unknowingly to asbestos either during personal or professional experiences. Extensive documentation exists today about the companies that manufactured, distributed, and/or supplied asbestos products, many of whom knew of the hazards of asbestos as far back as the 1930s yet failed to take precautions to protect or notify workers until the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Our justice system allows those suffering from mesothelioma to seek compensation from the manufacturers of asbestos and asbestos-containing products – compensation that is often necessary for medical and personal needs.

To begin the process of seeking compensation, schedule a brief introductory meeting with an experienced and reputable mesothelioma attorney. During that meeting, the attorney should outline the various steps of the legal process; address any questions or concerns you may have related to the legal process; and seek to discuss the ways in which you may have been exposed to asbestos. After this introductory meeting, the process should proceed as follows:

Step 1: Investigation/Background

After the brief introductory meeting, your attorneys should expeditiously collect all diagnosing medical reports.

In addition, they will collect work history records, including, but not limited to, union records, service-related records (e.g., United States Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Army, etc.), or other documents detailing employment history.

Your attorneys should seek to identify any potential family members, co-workers, and/or other product identification witnesses who may be able to assist in the development of the matter moving forward.

Step 2: Identifying and Submitting Claims to Asbestos Trusts

Numerous companies have admitted past liability for asbestos exposure and have set up asbestos trusts to compensate qualifying mesothelioma clients. Your attorney should be familiar with these trusts and their requirements for claims submission. Often, compensation through these trusts can happen very quickly if your particular case meets each trust's exposure criteria. An attorney well-versed with these asbestos trusts is critical to the overall success of your case.

Once your case has been evaluated for potential recovery through the asbestos trusts, your attorney should then begin investigation of your case against viable companies who have yet to fully admit their asbestos liability.

Step 3: Complaint Filing

Generally, after an investigation period lasting 30 to 60 days, your attorney should determine, based on a thorough understanding of scheduling, process timeframe, settlement history, and local laws, the proper venue to file the legal action. Your attorney has discretion to file in any forum where a mesothelioma client has resided, worked, served in the military, and/or in 'open forum' states (i.e., those states agreeable to allowing non-resident/non-exposure claimants to file).

Once the proper forum is determined, your attorney should file a formal complaint on behalf of the mesothelioma client. The complaint formally commences the legal process of seeking compensation. The complaint typically asserts various legal causes of action against the asbestos companies likely responsible for causing or contributing to a mesothelioma client's diagnosis. The number of asbestos companies ("defendants") named in the complaint varies based on the specific type and amount of exposure a mesothelioma client may have had during his/her lifetime.

Step 4: Discovery

Upon the filing of the complaint, the discovery phase commences. Discovery is, generally, referred to as 'proving the case.' Typically, the discovery phase lasts from 3 to 4 months.

Discovery allows your attorney to present information to the defendant asbestos companies which evidence where, when, and how the mesothelioma client may have been exposed to a particular asbestos product. Your attorney can present this information in the form of written documents (i.e., interrogatories) and/or oral testimony

(i.e., deposition) to the defendant asbestos companies. The defendant asbestos companies will also be entitled to present information and/or documents to your attorney during this period.

Your attorney should also file appropriate motions in court during the discovery phase. These motions may include matters such as scheduling, etc. Your attorney will likely try to reach some financial settlement(s) during the discovery phase.

Step 5: Settlement/Trial

The vast majority of mesothelioma lawsuits will not go to trial, but rather will resolve in settlements well in advance of the trial date.

Throughout the entire legal process, your attorney should discuss the strengths and weaknesses of seeking trial resolution vs. settlement with the mesothelioma client. Your attorney should value continued client input and respect the client's right to decide what may be in his/her best legal interests.

Should a matter proceed to trial, your attorney should be experienced, qualified, and prepared to do so.

Step 6: Appeal

After a trial decision, a defendant asbestos company may seek further review of an adverse decision. This review is called an appeal. Your attorney should also be experienced, qualified, and prepared to handle appeals.

Please note, settlements are final and cannot be appealed.

Asbestos Trusts

Most recoveries for mesothelioma victims come from lawsuit settlements with **viable** companies that are still in business today.

Additionally, there is a growing number of companies that manufactured or distributed asbestos that have declared bankruptcy. Over **60 asbestos trusts** have been established with **billions of dollars** set aside by these bankrupt entities to compensate mesothelioma victims. Often, clients do not even have to file a lawsuit or undergo a deposition in order to receive substantial compensation.

For your benefit, we have listed some of the major asbestos trusts below that have been set up to compensate mesothelioma victims:

Larger Active Asbestos Trusts	Approximate Mesothelioma Payout*	Asbestos Products
Armstrong World Industries	\$46,800	Insulation, Floor Tile Products
ASARCO	\$32,200	Fiber Supply - LAQ (CAPCO)
Babcock & Wilcox	\$20,800	Boilers, Refractories
Bondex	\$38,400	Joint Compound
Burns & Roe	\$23,900	Engineering & Construction Contractor for Power Plants
Combustion Engineering	\$37,000	Boilers, Refractories
Congoleum	\$16,400	Flooring
Fibreboard	\$23,300	Insulation
Flintkote	\$45,400	Flooring, Fiber Supply, & More
GAF Corporation	\$12,800	Flooring, Roofing, & More
Garlock	\$24,200	High-Heat Gasket, Packing Materials
Halliburton	\$49,800	Pumps
Harbison Walker	\$102,800	Refractory & Other Products
J.T. Thorpe	\$62,500	Insulation, Refractory, Boiler Contractor
Johns Manville	\$25,100	Raw Asbestos
Kaiser Aluminum	\$28,800	Refractory Products
Kentile Floors	\$19,100	Tiles, Flooring Products
NARCO	\$82,200	Refractory Cement, Boiler Products
National Gypsum Company	\$22,200	Drywall Related
Owens Corning	\$48,700	Insulation
Owens-Illinois	\$51,100	Insulation
Pittsburgh Corning	\$66,800	Insulation
Plant Insulation Company	\$89,500	Regional Asbestos Products Distributor
Quigley	\$31,700	Cement, Fiber
T.H.A.N	\$61,100	Fiber Supply to Many Drywall Companies
Thorpe Insulation Company	\$195,300	West Coast Exposures
Turner & Newall	\$18,200	Spray on Insulation, Cement Pipe
United Gilsonite Laboratories	\$25,600	Drywall Products, Joint Cement
United States Gypsum	\$92,900	Drywall Related
W.R. Grace	\$75,200	Commercial Construction Products
Western MacArthur	\$217,300	Various Insulation Supply, Contracting
Yarway Corporation	\$25,100	Steam Valves, Steam Traps

continued on next page

Smaller Active Asbestos Trusts	Approximate Mesothelioma Payout*	Asbestos Products
A.P. Green Industries	\$7,300	Refractory, Firebrick
ABB Lummus Global Inc.	\$7,300	Heaters, Refineries
A-Best Products	\$5,500	Safety Gear
ACandS, Inc.	\$15,800	Insulation, Contracting
API, Inc.	\$128,100	Insulation, Contracting - Minnesota / Midwest
Bondo	\$4,613	Body Filler, Muffler, & Tailpipe Bandage
C.E. Thurston & Sons	\$16,400	Insulation
Celotex	\$11,200	Various Insulation
Durabla	\$10,000	Sealing Products
Duro Dyne Corporation	\$28,900	Flexible Duct Connectors
Eagle-Picher Industries	\$12,400	Insulation Products
Fairbanks Company	\$15,100	Valves
Federal-Mogul Corporation	\$13,300	Fiber, Insulation, Brakes
Ferodo	\$4,500	Brake Parts
Flexitallic	\$4,400	Spiral Wound Industrial Gasket
General Motors	\$10,300	Automotive Brake Parts
H.K. Porter Company	\$1,000	Cloth
Hercules Chemical	\$4,900	Plumber's Putty
J.T. Thorpe Successor Trust	\$46,500	Insulation, Refractory, Boiler Contractor
Keene Corporation	\$1,100	Cement
Leslie Controls	\$8,100	Control Valves, Shutoff Valves, Control Instrumentation
Maremont	\$7,700	Automotive Brake & Clutch Linings
Pacor Inc.	\$9,400	Insulation
Plibrico	\$7,300	Refractory
Porter Hayden Company	\$13,700	Insulation Installation
Raymark / Raytech Corporation	\$1,300	Brake Parts
SEPCO Corporation	\$5,200	Thermal Felt, Insulation Sheets
Shook & Fletcher	\$10,600	Boiler, Insulation Work - About 10 States
Synkoloid Company	\$5,500	Construction, Home Renovation Products
United States Mineral Products	\$3,200	Fireproofing

*Actual values may vary based on various factors including, but not limited to, age, type of exposure, and firm settlement history.

Expected Future Trusts	Approximate Mesothelioma Payout	Asbestos Products
AVON	???	Talc-based Cosmetics & Personal Hygiene Products
CertainTeed Corporation	???	Cement, Insulation, Roofing
Georgia-Pacific Corporation	???	Joint Compound
Johnson & Johnson	???	Talcum Powder
Ingersoll-Rand Company	???	Furnaces, HVAC Equipment
Nash Engineering	???	Pumps
Trane U.S. Inc.	???	Pumps, Air Compressors

Viable Companies

Many companies manufactured and distributed asbestos or asbestos products. These companies knowingly put people at risk for asbestos exposure and for developing mesothelioma. Some of these companies are listed below:

A

- A.O. Smith Corp.
- A.W. Chesterton Company
- Abbett Electric Corp.
- Abco Welding Supply
- Abex Corp.
- ABF Freight
- Acadiana Rubber & Gasket
- Acme Insulations
- ADC Supply Corp.
- Advance Auto Parts
- Aero Jet
- Afton Pumps
- AK Steel Corp.
- Albany Felt Company
- Alcoa Inc.
- Alfa Laval
- Allied Building Products Corp.
- Allied Glove Corp.
- Allied Paper Incorporated
- Allied Signal
- Amatek
- Amber Supply Co.
- Amchem/American Chemical
- Amcord

- American Airlines
- American Biltrite
- American Brake Shoe Co.
- American Cyanamid
- American Electric Power
- American Foreign Steamship
- American Home Products
- American Honda Corp.
- American Insulated Wire
- American Olean Tile Co.
- American Optical Company
- American Saturated Felt
- American Standard
- Anchor Packing Co., The
- Anco Insulation
- Anheuser Busch
- API Heat Transfer
- Aqua Chem
- Argo International Corp.
- Armstrong International
- Ashland Specialty Chemical
- AT&T Corp.
- Atlantic Richfield Company
- Atlas Electric Supply Co.
- Atlas Heating and Ventilating
- Atlas Turner
- Attransco Ship Management
- Aurora Pump Company
- Auto Barn Stores
- Autozone Inc.
- AVCO Corp.
- Aventis Cropscience USA Inc.
- Avocet Enterprises
- Avondale Industries Inc.

B

- Badger Metals Inc.
- Baker Hughes Oilfield
- Bakers Pride Oven Co.
- Barko Hydraulics, LLC
- Bath Iron Works
- Bay Oil Company
- Bayer Corp.
- Bayonne Plumbing Supply
- Beadex
- Bear Stearns Companies
- Bechtel Corp.
- Beckett Corp.
- Beech Aircraft Corp.
- Belden Wire and Cable Co.
- Bell & Gossett Company
- Bell Asbestos Mines Ltd.
- Bell Atlantic Corp.
- Bendix Corp. fka AlliedSignal
- Bergen Tile & Linoleum Co.
- Best Manufacturing Co.
- Bestobell Steam Traps
- Bethlehem Apparatus
- BF Goodrich Company
- BHP Copper
- Biltrite Corp., The
- Bird Incorporated
- Blackman Plumbing Supply
- BMW of North America, LLC
- BNSF Railway Company
- Boeing Company, The
- Bohn Aluminum
- Boise Cascade Corp.
- Borg Warner Automotive
- Bostik

- BP Amoco
- Brauer Supply Company
- Bridgestone Tire Co.
- British Airways Plc
- Bryan Steam Corp.
- Buffalo Air Handling
- Buffalo Pumps
- Burnham Corp.
- Burns International Services
- Byron Jackson Pumps

C

- California Portland Cement
- Camden Flooring Company
- Carboline Company
- Carborundum Company
- Carey Canada Mines
- Carlisle Companies Inc.
- Carrier Corp.
- Carver Pump Company
- Caterpillar
- CBS Corp.
- Central Hudson Gas & Electric
- Central Jersey Supply
- Central Pipe Supply
- Central Power & Light
- Cessna Aircraft Company
- Chemrex
- Chevron Corp.
- Chevron Shipping Co.
- Chicago Bridge & Iron
- Chicago Fire Brick
- Chicago Pneumatic
- Chiquita Brands International
- Ciba-Geigy Corp.

- Cilco Energy Corp.
- Clarage Fan Company
- Cleaver Brooks Co.
- Colonial Sugar & Refining
- Coltec Industries
- Columbia Acoustics
- Columbia Boiler Co.
- Columbia Pictures Industries
- Comet Auto Supply
- Commonwealth Edison
- Compudyne Corp.
- Conagra Foods
- Conair Corp.
- Connecticut Light & Power
- Consolidated Edison of NY
- Consolidated Insulation
- Consolidated Rail Corp.
- Conwed Corp.
- Cooper Industries
- Cooper Tire & Rubber
- Cooper-Standard Automotive
- Crane Company
- Crescent Electric Supply
- Crocker-Wheeler Company
- Crosby Valve
- Crown Boiler Co.
- Crown, Cork & Seal Company
- CSR Limited
- CSX Transportation Inc.
- Cutler-Hammer
- Cypress Plumbing & Heating
- Cyprus Amax Minerals Co.

D

- DAL-Tile International
- Dana Holding Corp.
- DAP
- DB Riley
- Deere & Company
- DeKalb Tile Company
- De Laval Steam Turbine
- Detroit Stoker Company
- Dole Foods
- Domco Products Texas, LP
- Donald Durham Company
- Donaldson Acoustics Co.
- Donlee Technologies
- Douglass Insulation
- Dow Chemical Company
- Dresser-Rand
- Duke Power Energy Carolinas
- Dunkirk
- Dupont
- Durametallic Corp.
- Dynamic Seals

E

- E&B Mill Supply
- East Kentucky Power Cooperative
- Eastern Refractories Co.
- Eastman Kodak Company
- Eaton Electrical Inc.
- Eckel Industries
- EI Dupont de Nemours
- Electric Boat Corp.
- Electrolux
- Eli Lilly and Company
- Elliott Turbomachinery Co.

- Elm Supply Co. Inc.
- Empire Ace Insulation Mfg.
- Enpro Industries
- Equistar Chemicals, LP
- Equitable Company, The
- Ericcson
- Essex Plumbing Supply
- Essex Wire Corp.
- Evcon Industries
- Exxon Mobil Corp.

F

- Fairbanks Morse Pump Corp.
- Falk Corp., The
- Farrell Lines
- Federal Boiler Company
- Feldman Lumber Industries
- Fel-Pro
- Felt Products Mfg. Co.
- Fiat USA
- First Hartford Corp.
- FirstEnergy Corp.
- Fisher Scientific Company
- Fitzgibbons Boiler Company
- Flowserve US
- Fluor Enterprises
- FMC Corp.
- Ford Motor Company
- Foseco
- Foster Valve Company
- Foster Wheeler Corp.
- Fraser's Boiler Service
- Friction Materials
- Fulton Boiler Works

G

- G&G Seal Co.
- Gage Company, The
- Gardner Denver
- Garson Plumbing Supplies
- General Cable Corp.
- General Dynamics Corp.
- General Electric Company
- General Motors
- General Refractories Co.
- George A. Fuller Company
- Goodall Rubber Company
- Goodrich Corp.
- Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
- Gould's Pumps, Inc.
- Granite Construction Co.
- Granite Rock Company
- Grant Wilson
- Graphic Construction Corp.
- Graves Automotive Supply
- Graybar Electric Company
- Grinnell Corp.
- Grossman's Lumber
- Gulf Oil Limited Partnership

H

- H.B. Fuller Company
- H.B. Smith Company
- Handy Auto Supply Co.
- Hanson Permanente Cement
- Harley-Davidson
- Heating Oil Partners, LP
- Hedman Mines, Ltd.
- Henry Vogt Machine Co.
- Hill Brothers Chemical Co.

- Hirsch Pipe & Supply Co.
- Holland Furnace
- Hollinger Company
- Hollingsworth & Vose Co.
- Homasote Company
- Honeywell International
- Hopeman Brothers
- Hudson Heating
- Hudson Iron and Metal Co.

I

- IBM
- ICI Composites
- IMO Industries
- Industrial Holdings Corp.
- Industrial Insulation
- Industrial Welding Supply
- Insulation Supply Corp.
- International Harvester
- International Paper Company
- Invensys Systems
- ITT Corp.
- ITT Fluid Products Corp.
- ITT Grinnell Corp.
- ITT Hoffman
- ITT Sheraton Corp.

J

- J.C. Whitney & Co.
- J.H. France Refractories Co.
- Jacuzzi Brothers
- Jamaica Plumbing & Heating
- Janos Asbestos Company
- Jaquays Asbestos
- John Bryant Motors

- John Crane, Inc.
- John Deere Company
- Johnson Controls

K

- Kamco Supply Corp.
- Karnak Corp.
- Keeler Dorr Oliver Boiler
- Kelly Moore Paint
- Kennecott Corp.
- Kerite Company
- Keyspan Energy Corp.
- Kimberly-Clark Scott Corp.
- Klauser Supply Co.
- Kohler Company
- Koppers Company

L

- L&M Surco Mfg.
- Leonnox International
- Liberty Plumbing & Heating
- Lincoln Electric Company
- Linstedt Oil Company
- Lloyd Lumber Co.
- Lockheed Martin Corp.
- Lockheed Shipbuilding
- Loews Corp.
- Long Island Lighting Co.
- Long Island Railroad
- Lorillard Tobacco Company
- Louisiana Sugar Cane
- Lucent Technologies
- Lufkin Industries
- Lykes Bros Steamship Co.

M

- M.H. Detrick Company
- MacArthur Company
- Mack Trucks
- Magnaflux Corp.
- Magnatrol Valve Corp.
- Mann Packing Co.
- Manning Paper Company
- Mansfield Plumbing Products
- Marathon Oil Corp.
- Marine Transport Lines
- Markey Machinery Co.
- Marley Cooling Technologies
- Marlo Sealing Company
- Marquette Insulation
- Marsam Valves & Fittings
- Mazda North America
- McDonnell Douglas Corp.
- McLaughlin Insulation Co.
- Mercedes Benz USA
- Metalclad Insulation
- Metro Fuel Oil Corp.
- Metro-North Railroad
- Metropolitan Life Insurance
- Michelin North America
- Mikes Auto Parts Inc.
- Miller Brewing Company
- Milwaukee Valve Company
- Mine Safety Appliances Co.
- Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing (3M)
- Mitsubishi
- Monsanto Company
- Moog Automotive

- Moore Dry Dock Company
- Morse Diesel International
- Mount Vernon Mills
- Murco Wall Products

N

- Nagle Pump
- Nassau Valley & Supply Corp.
- National Automotive Parts
- National Bulk Carriers
- National Steel and Shipbuilding Company
- Navistar International Transportation Corp.
- New England Insulation Co.
- New England Telephone
- New Jersey Plumbing Supply
- New Jersey Transit
- New York Plaza Building Co.
- New York Power Authority
- New York Presbyterian Hospital
- Newport News Shipbuilding
- Niagara Insulations
- Niagara Mohawk Power
- Niantic Seal Inc.
- Nissan Corp.
- Norfolk Southern Railway Co.
- Northrop Grumman Ship Systems
- Northwest Pipeline Corp.
- Novartis Corp.

O

- Occidental Chemical Corp.
- Office Max Incorporated
- Oglebay-Norton Company

- Okonite Company
- Olin Chemical Corp.
- Oshkosh Truck Corp.
- Osram Sylvania
- Otis Elevator Company

P

- P&H Mining Equipment
- Pabst Brewing Company
- Pabst Electric Company
- Pacific Bell Telephone
- Pacific Steel Boiler Corp.
- Packings and Insulation
- Parker-Hannifin Corp.
- Patterson Pump Company
- Pecora Corp.
- Peerless Heater Co.
- Penn Central Corp.
- Pentair Pump Group
- Pentair
- Pep Boys
- Peterbilt Motors Company
- Peugeot Motor Company
- Pfaudler
- Pfizer
- Pharmacia Corp.
- Phelps Dodge Industries
- Philips Electronics
- Phillips Petroleum Company
- Pittsburgh Gage & Supply
- Pittsburgh Metals Purifying
- Plastics Engineering Corp.
- Polar Tankers
- Polytherm Insulation Corp.

- Port Authority of New York
- Potomac Electric Company
- Power Piping Company
- PPG Industries
- Pratt & Whitney
- Procter & Gamble
- Proko Industries Inc.

Q

- Qualitex Company
- Quiet Automatic Burner
- Quintec Industries

R

- R.R. Donnelley & Sons
- R.T. Vanderbilt Company
- R.W. Beckett Corp.
- Radiator Specialty Co.
- Railroad Friction Products
- Raritan Supply Company
- Red Seal Electric Company
- Reilly-Benton
- Renault
- Reynolds Aluminum
- Reynolds Metals Company
- Rheem Manufacturing Co.
- Riley Power Inc.
- Riley Stoker Corp.
- Robert A. Keasbey Co.
- Rockbestos Company
- Rockwell Automation Inc.
- Roe Fire and Safety
- Rohm and Haas Company
- Rolls-Royce Corp.

- Rome Cable
- Rutland Fire Clay Company

S

- Safety & Supply Company
- Safety-Kleen Systems
- Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.
- Saks Fifth Avenue
- San Joaquin Lumber
- Sarco Company
- Schad Boiler Setting Co.
- Sealing Equipment Products
- Sealite
- Sears, Roebuck and Company
- Shell Oil Company
- Sheraton Corp.
- Sherwin Williams Company
- Sherwood Davis & Geck
- Shipley Oil Co.
- Sid Harvey Industries
- Siemens Energy
- Simpson Timber Company
- Sloan Valve Company
- Solco Plumbing Supply Inc.
- South Amboy Plumbing
- Southern California Edison
- Southern California Gas Co.
- Special Materials
- Specialty Cable Corp.
- Spencer Turbine Company
- Spirax Sarco, Inc.
- Sportan Valve Company
- Sprinkmann Sons Corp.
- SPX Cooling Technologies

- Staley Elevator Co.
- Standard-Knapp
- Standard Motor Products
- Standard Tile Corp.
- Sterling Fluid Systems
- Sterling Plastics and Rubber
- Stone and Webster
- Straham Valves
- Stroh Brewery Company
- Subaru of America
- Sulzer Bingham Pumps
- Sun Chemical
- Sunoco, Inc.
- Sun Ship, LLC
- Superior Boiler Company
- Superior Welding Company
- Sure Seal Products Co.
- Syd Carpenter
- Syracuse Supply Company

T

- Taco Inc.
- Tarkett Floor Company
- Taylor Insulation Co.
- Tecumseh Products
- Teknor Apex Rubber Co.
- Terex Cranes Wilmington, Inc.
- Texaco Inc.
- Texaco Marine Services
- Texas City Terminal Railway
- Thermo Electric Company
- Thermwell Products Co.
- Tishman Construction Corp.
- Todd Shipyards Corp.
- Torno Lumber

- Toro Company
- Toyota Motors
- Trans World Airlines
- Treadwell Corp.
- Triangle Insulation
- Triangle Sheet Metal Workers
- Trilco Lumber Company
- Triplex
- Troy Boiler Works
- Truck and Auto Supply
- True Value
- Truserv Corp.
- TXU Electric Company
- Tyco International

U

- U.S. Plywood Corp.
- U.S. Radiator
- Union Boiler Company
- Union Carbide Corp.
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Union Pump Company
- Uniroyal Holding
- United Brass Works
- United Fruit Company
- United Gilsonite Laboratories
- United States Steel Corp.
- United Technologies Corp.
- Utica Boiler Cos., The

V

- Valspar Corp.
- Velan Steam Trap Corp.
- Vellumoid
- Viacom, Inc.

- Viad Corp.
- Viking Pump
- Volkswagen Corp.

W

- W.W. Grainger
- Waldron Duffy
- Wal-Rich Corp.
- Warner-Lambert Company
- Warren Pumps, Inc.
- Webster Plumbing Supply
- Weil-McLain Co.
- Weir Valves & Controls USA
- Welco Manufacturing
- Western Auto Supply Co.
- Western Electric Company
- Westinghouse Electric Corp.
- Weyerhaeuser Company
- Whirlpool Corp.
- Wickes Boiler
- Wisconsin Energy
- Woolsulate Corp.
- Worthington Corp.

X

- Xcel Energy
- Xerox Corp.

Y

- Yale Materials Handling Corp.
- Yamaha Motor Corp., USA
- York International Corp.

Z

- Zurn Industries, Inc.

Statutes of Limitations

It is very easy to lose your rights completely. Each state has its own deadlines, called statutes of limitations, for allowing victims of asbestos disease to file lawsuits. This means that there are strict deadlines for filing claims or lawsuits after becoming aware that you have an asbestos disease or after a loved one dies from an asbestos disease.

Your rights vary depending on many factors such as your residence, where you were exposed to asbestos, and the residence of the responsible asbestos companies. Each state naturally has its own laws which allow different remedies. Some state courts have special provisions for “immediate” trials for individuals with mesothelioma, lung cancer, or severe asbestosis.

State	Statute of Limitations (Years From Diagnosis)	Wrongful Death Statute (Years From Death)	State	Statute of Limitations (Years From Diagnosis)	Wrongful Death Statute (Years From Death)
Alabama	2	2	Nebraska	4	2
Alaska	2	2	Nevada	2	2
Arizona	2	2	New Hampshire	3	3
Arkansas	3	3	New Jersey	2	2
California	1	1	New Mexico	3	3
Colorado	2	2	New York	3	2
Connecticut	3	3	North Carolina	3	2
Delaware	2	2	North Dakota	6	2
Florida	4	2	Ohio	2	2
Georgia	2	2	Oklahoma	2	2
Hawaii	2	2	Oregon	3	3
Idaho	2	2	Pennsylvania	2	2
Illinois	2	2	Rhode Island	3	3
Indiana	2	2	South Carolina	3	3
Iowa	2	2	South Dakota	3	3
Kansas	2	2	Tennessee	1	1
Kentucky	1	1	Texas	2	2
Louisiana	1	1	Utah	3	2
Maine	6	3	Vermont	3	2
Maryland	3	3	Virginia	2	2
Massachusetts	3	3	Washington	3	3
Michigan	3	3	Washington, D.C.	3	2
Minnesota	4	3	West Virginia	2	2
Mississippi	3	3	Wisconsin	3	3
Missouri	5	3	Wyoming	4	2
Montana	3	3			

Workers' Compensation

What Is Workers' Compensation?

Workers' compensation is an administrative system set up by most states to provide compensation for any disability caused by a work-related accident or a work-related illness (e.g., mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis, black lung, pulmonary fibrosis, etc.). A workers' compensation claim is a "no fault" system, which means that an injured worker does not need to prove that his/her employer was negligent or "at fault" in some way. An injured worker simply needs to establish that he/she was injured in the course of his/her employment.

While this issue is often contested by the insurance companies, the simple fact of an injury sustained in the course of employment allows a worker to file a claim. Workers' compensation is based on a worker's last-earned wages (adjusted to present value if the worker has been retired for some time).

In many states, an injured worker is entitled to workers' compensation even if he/she has been retired for many years. All employers are required to carry workers' compensation insurance to cover payments to any injured workers. Many workers' compensation claims end in a lump sum settlement from the insurance companies instead of a weekly disability payment.

Should Mesothelioma Victims File Workers' Compensation Claims?

The short answer is almost always "yes." All mesothelioma victims should be advised by their attorneys regarding their rights under the workers' compensation laws. A workers' compensation claim has the potential to add another avenue of compensation for anyone suffering from mesothelioma.

Workers' compensation claims also have the potential to cover all mesothelioma-related medical bills and all government liens (if any apply) if a claim is litigated to completion and receives a favorable decision from the workers' compensation court.

While some workers' compensation claims may have little or no value depending on the amount of settlements a worker received from other companies outside of the workers' comp system, many workers' compensation claims have substantial value and can be a tremendous additional source of compensation for mesothelioma victims.

It is very important that every mesothelioma victim ask his/her attorneys for advice on whether or not to file a workers' compensation claim and, if so, what is the potential added value of such a claim.

VA Benefits

Additional Compensation for Veterans

In addition to receiving financial compensation from a civil lawsuit as a result of being diagnosed with mesothelioma, United States Veterans may also be entitled to receive certain Veterans Administration (VA)-related benefits based on a diagnosis of mesothelioma. These may include medical and/or financial (disability) benefits and are based on service-related exposure to asbestos. Asbestos exposure during service can occur directly (e.g., repairing equipment on board a ship) or indirectly (e.g., via a transport vessel overseas). Length of exposure to asbestos during service can be significant (years) or minimal (weeks or months). It can also be substantial (multiple exposures to different sources).

Generally, the VA offers “special benefits programs” for service-related disorders, such as Agent Orange, Gulf War syndrome, ionizing radiation, etc. These programs allow veterans to receive applicable benefits based solely on a diagnosis of a qualifying disease. They do not require veterans to prove how/where they were exposed.

To date, however, the VA has *not* classified asbestos exposure, and a subsequent diagnosis of mesothelioma, for a “special benefits program” despite the thousands of veterans suffering from mesothelioma as a result of service exposure. The VA does not, at present, classify mesothelioma as a specific “service-connected” condition. As a result, those veterans suffering from mesothelioma must complete an Application for Benefits. This application must be supplemented with

a diagnosing medical/pathology report indicating mesothelioma and sufficient proof of specific asbestos exposure during service.

Even though veterans suffering from mesothelioma may be entitled to receive VA-related benefits, many are unable to complete the application process due to a lack of sufficient proof of asbestos exposure during time of service. Many also forego the right to pursue VA-related benefits because of the lack of guidance in completing the application.

Attorneys representing asbestos victims should have experience and expertise in assisting veterans with completing the Application for Benefits. They should be able to offer guidance to veterans on filling out the requisite forms, collecting the necessary medical documentation and, most importantly, identifying sufficient proof of asbestos exposure during service years. Attorneys representing veterans should have previously conducted extensive investigations and understand the significance of deck logs, muster rolls, MIR (Material Inspection Reports), ship databases, war diaries, vendor/purchasing information, private shipyard records, etc. and be knowledgeable about them.

As diligent and knowledgeable attorneys, we are prepared to assist our veteran-clients who have questions concerning these potential benefits. We are proud to serve those who have served our country.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should I pursue a mesothelioma case?

Based on internal documents, many asbestos companies were well aware of the dangers of asbestos as early as the 1930s/1940s yet continued to profit from the manufacture and sale of asbestos-containing products into the 1980s. Few companies applied warning labels to their products to alert workers or consumers of the hazards of asbestos dust. The asbestos companies did not inform workers and the public of these dangers of asbestos until many years later, if ever.

The asbestos industry made a concerted effort to conceal the dangers of asbestos from the public, while profiting heavily from the sale and manufacture of harmful asbestos products.

Those suffering from mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases have a right to claim legal damages against the responsible asbestos companies. While no amount of money could ever possibly compensate for your health or for the loss of a loved one from mesothelioma, pursuing a case can help to provide financial assistance and stability. Funds received from pursuing a legal matter can assure medical and financial security and some amount of justice for those suffering.

2. How much time and effort would it take on my part to pursue a mesothelioma case?

First and foremost, the needs and concerns of each individual client should be taken into consideration. The client's medical care and treatment should always be the primary concern. After that, pursuing a lawsuit should cause little concern or stress to the client and his or her family. Clients are not required to travel or to appear in court. Much of the legal work (e.g., collecting medical records, identifying sources of asbestos exposure, contacting witnesses, etc.) should be conducted by experienced and competent attorneys and legal staff members.

An experienced and competent mesothelioma attorney should give due consideration to the client's individual situation – health, financial concerns, medical treatment, etc. – and determine the best course of legal action to pursue on the client's behalf. An experienced and competent mesothelioma attorney should seek to obtain the maximum amount of compensation in the most expeditious fashion, while keeping the process as easy as possible for the client.

3. Will it cost me anything to pursue a mesothelioma case?

No, electing to pursue a mesothelioma lawsuit should not cost any money up-front or out-of-pocket.

Mesothelioma clients should be represented on a contingency fee basis, meaning that the attorney's fee is based on a percentage of the amount of financial compensation that is recovered on a client's behalf. If there is no financial recovery on your behalf, the attorney does not earn a fee.

In addition, your attorney should advance all expenses associated with the investigation and pursuit of your case (e.g., collecting medical records, filing the lawsuit, travel expenses, etc.). These advanced expenses are repayable to the attorney only upon successful financial resolution of your case.

4. Should I hire a local attorney to pursue my case?

Geographical location should not be a sole determining factor in your decision to hire an attorney/firm to represent your legal interests. What is paramount in your decision to hire an attorney is the specific dedication, experience, and expertise of the firm handling mesothelioma cases.

5. In what state would my lawsuit be filed?

The decision on where to file can only be made after a dedicated review of the specific facts and circumstances of your individual case (e.g., work history, locations of residence, etc.). In most instances, there may be a choice of jurisdiction (i.e., city/state of filing). An experienced attorney should be able to thoughtfully discuss these filing options with you.

6. If my lawsuit is filed in a state other than the one I live in would I be required to travel?

No, you will not be required to travel if you pursue a legal action. Your attorney should travel to your home (or an otherwise agreeable location) to meet with you to discuss and prepare the legal matter. Your attorney should attend court appearances, depositions, etc. as necessary and in your absence without any prejudice to your case.

7. Will I have to go to court?

No. Your attorneys will file your case and motions and attend court on your behalf. Neither you nor your family will be required to appear in court against your wishes. Most cases never see the inside of a courtroom because asbestos defendants typically settle cases before the trial date.

A deposition (i.e., where your oral testimony is recorded in a non-trial setting) may be the most taxing portion of the case for a client. A deposition may not be appropriate in all cases. The attorney you hire should discuss in more detail what your deposition may entail, and will determine together with you, whether it will be appropriate in your case. Your attorney should also take every measure to ensure your comfort throughout the deposition should one be necessary.

8. Will pursuing a mesothelioma case affect my pension? I don't want to pursue my employer.

Pursuing a mesothelioma lawsuit will not affect your pension. A mesothelioma case is usually pursued against asbestos manufacturers, rather than an employer (i.e., workers' compensation); although, each case is different and handled on its individual merits. An attorney from our office can speak with you (at no cost or obligation to you) to discuss your individual situation and potential legal options, and can further address any specific questions or concerns in this regard.

9. I don't know where I was exposed to asbestos. How can I be expected to remember what asbestos-containing products, if any, I worked with 30, 40, or 50 years ago?

It is usually a cumulative exposure to a number of asbestos-containing products – on the job-site and at home – that can cause an asbestos-related disease. Many asbestos-containing products were not necessarily labeled as such. Your attorney should be familiar with these products and our team will work hard to pinpoint your sources of exposure to asbestos, and the companies responsible for your illness.

10. I was exposed to asbestos while serving aboard a ship in the Navy. Would I have to sue the military?

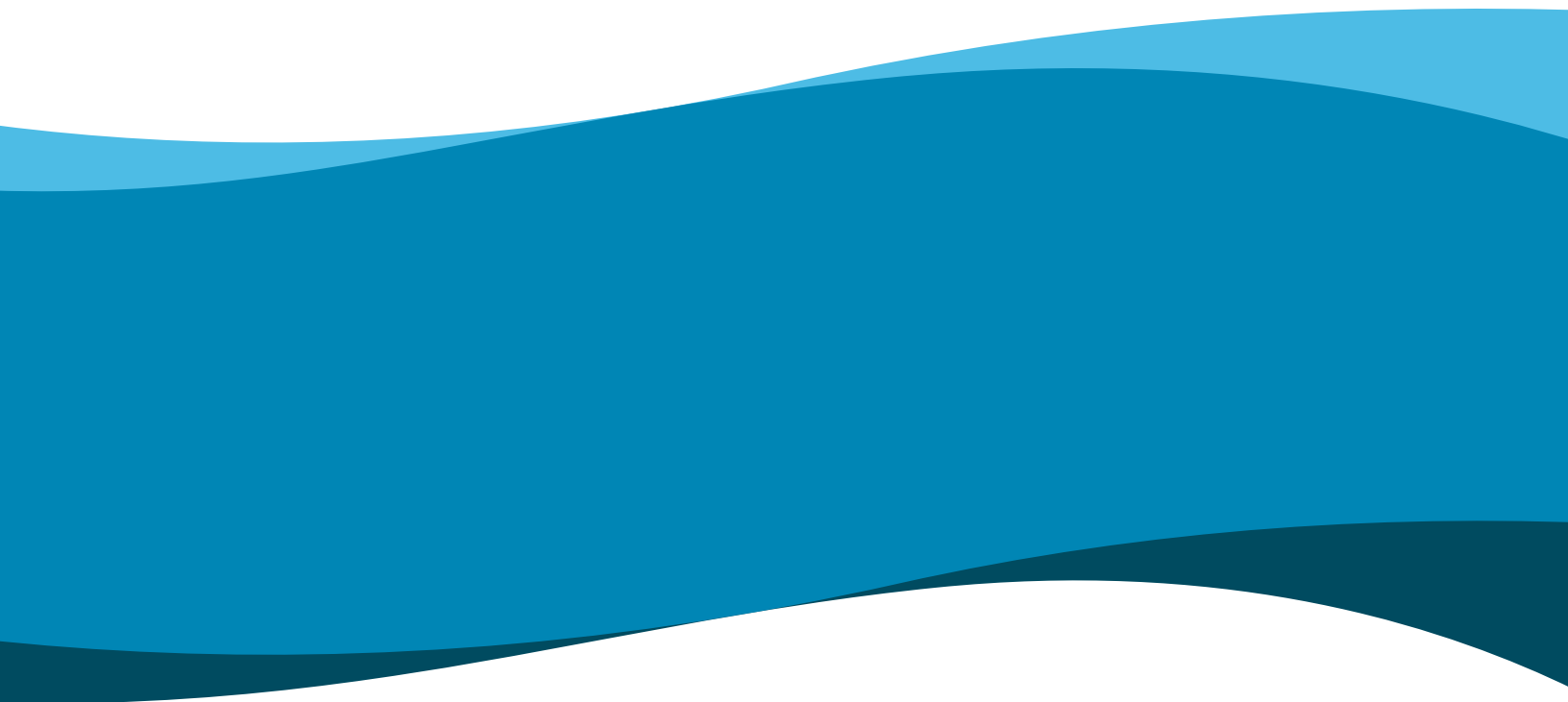
You would absolutely not have to sue the military. The attorney you hire should pursue the companies who manufactured the various assembly parts and equipment used aboard the ship. The attorney you hire should also be highly experienced in navy ship research and litigation and be able to research and identify the various asbestos-containing materials aboard each ship.

11. What factors determine the amount of compensation in mesothelioma cases? How much money can I expect to receive?

Many different factors are involved in determining the amount of compensation that an individual receives. Some of the major factors will include: age at diagnosis, medical expenses, loss of wages, dependents, pain and suffering, state laws and statutes, and the defendant companies that are identified. As far as the amount that you can expect to receive, this can vary depending on many of these factors and others. You can look at the track record of the attorney you hire to get a general gauge of the value of these cases in general.

12. How long will it take before I receive compensation?

The length of time it will take before you receive compensation can vary depending on a number of factors. These may include: the severity of your illness, jurisdiction where your case was filed, trial date, and how soon the claimants and defendant companies are willing to negotiate a settlement. The attorney you hire should be able to obtain an expedited trial date for clients diagnosed with mesothelioma. That said, it is probable that you will receive partial monetary compensation within 4 months and the entire process will likely be complete within 9 to 16 months.



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We truly value the relationships
we develop with our clients.

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Why Choose ELSM?

About Our Firm

Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen (ELSM) is nationally recognized for our representation of mesothelioma victims, and for our understanding of and compassion for victims and their families. Our experience in these matters spans four decades, and we have been given Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating.

Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen has consistently been at the top of the list in terms of per case settlement dollars obtained for its asbestos clients. We represent in excess of 5,000 victims of mesothelioma in their cases against the asbestos industry.

**“ ELSM has represented
mesothelioma victims
from every state across
the United States. ”**

We will explain the multiple paths to follow to maximize your recovery against asbestos manufacturers and suppliers. We will discuss with you the options of lawsuits, out of court settlements, and claims in the bankruptcy courts. We will seek to determine and advise you as to the best course of action in your case. In many cases, we can obtain settlement offers from certain asbestos manufacturers within a few months of retention.



Many law firms employ attorneys that handle thousands of cases annually and are unable to provide the adequate individual attention that each client needs and deserves. Moreover, many asbestos law firms have multiple areas of practice and devote only a portion of their overall efforts to handling mesothelioma cases.



Martindale-Hubbell "AV Rating"

ELSM has received Martindale-Hubbell's highest AV rating for excellence in ethical standards and legal expertise.

Conversely, Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen works only on mesothelioma cases. We are responsive and provide individual attention by assigning attorneys and paralegals to each client, ensuring that the client's needs are always addressed in a personal and timely manner. We take great

care to make sure the legal process does not in any way interrupt or impede our clients' medical care and treatment. We realize and value the importance in receiving immediate medical care and attention post-diagnosis.

Initial consultations at Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen are always free of charge and are designed to help us evaluate your case and measure your chance for a viable, successful lawsuit. In addition, because Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen operates on a contingency fee basis, the client pays nothing unless we succeed on your behalf and money is recovered.

We value the relationships we have developed with our clients over the years. We have worked with clients in every state across the United States of America. Should you have any questions, we will gladly arrange to come out and visit you in person to share our knowledge and help in any way that we can.

Twelve Reasons to Hire ELSM

1. Over 40 Years of Experience

The firm of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen has been representing mesothelioma and asbestos disease victims and their families for over 40 years. ELSM has been given the highest rating in legal ability and legal ethics by Martindale-Hubbell, the most respected organization that rates lawyers.

2. We Focus on Mesothelioma Cases Only

Other firms typically handle many areas of litigation whereas ELSM devotes nearly 100% of our resources to mesothelioma cases. We understand the concerns of our clients suffering from mesothelioma, and we understand the unique legal concerns of these cases.

3. Nationwide Representation

We have office locations in Connecticut, New York, California, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Florida, Rhode Island, and Washington, D.C. In addition, our established affiliations with top asbestos law firms across the country extend our capabilities to represent mesothelioma clients in every state within the U.S.

4. Unparalleled Industry Knowledge

Our firm has extensive knowledge about the companies that manufactured, distributed, and supplied products containing asbestos, and we apply this knowledge to make your case as strong as possible.

5. Extensive Medical Knowledge

Our team of professionals remains firmly dedicated to keeping informed about the latest research, diagnosis, and treatment options for asbestos-related diseases.

6. Top Jury Awards/Settlements

Our lawyers will fight hard to get you the financial compensation to which you are entitled. The jury awards and settlements we have received for our clients are among the highest in the country.

7. A Dedicated Team Assigned to Maximize Recovery From Asbestos Trusts

Over 65 asbestos trusts have been set up with billions of dollars set aside to compensate mesothelioma victims. ELSM has an entire department dedicated to recovering funds quickly for you from these trusts.

8. Quick Compensation and Fast Trial Dates

We understand that recovering funds quickly to help cover medical expenses is important to our clients. To that end, we work quickly on recovering funds from the asbestos trusts and securing the earliest possible trial date on your behalf. You can expect to see results as early as three to six months after starting the process.

9. Individual Attention and Accessibility

Each case is assigned a team of attorneys and legal assistants which allows us to give you individual attention and address your unique needs. We make ourselves accessible to you at all times, including nights and weekends.

10. We Keep You Informed

Dedicated attorneys and paralegals keep you informed about the progress of your case on a regular basis. We also make it our business to keep abreast of the latest medical news and legislative acts and keep you aware of this information as it becomes available.

11. No Legal Fees Unless We Win

We operate on a contingency fee basis which means you pay absolutely nothing until money is recovered. At that point, we receive a minor percentage of the awarded settlement. You will find our contingency fees to be among the lowest in the country.

12. Free Case Consultation

Take advantage of our free case consultation services to see how we can help you seek justice. We will travel to meet with you anywhere in the country. Our welcome team is ready to assist in any way you may need help.



Lawyers at ELSM

Our lawyers have represented victims of asbestos-related diseases in lawsuits against the asbestos industry since 1980. We have represented over 5,000 victims suffering from mesothelioma across the country. We have been nationally recognized for our legal skill, professional integrity, and experience by Martindale-Hubbell with their highest accolade, an AV Rating.

Our lawyers have negotiated some of the highest per case settlement dollars in the country for our clients. We take the time to understand and address your personal needs and concerns. We have developed close working relationships with medical doctors throughout the United States who specialize in treating mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. Our attorneys make the process as easy for you as possible during this difficult time. Please meet the group that will be dedicated to working tirelessly on your behalf.



James F. Early

In the 1980's, Attorney James F. Early successfully undertook to represent thousands of workers who contracted diseases from occupational exposure to asbestos. He is the co-founder and president of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney

& Meisenkothen, with offices in New Haven, Connecticut, and New York City.

Currently, Attorney Early concentrates his practice in representing asbestos victims, particularly those diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma. He represents thousands of asbestos victims nationwide. Also, he has represented hundreds of children afflicted with lead paint poisoning.

Attorney Early graduated from Harvard College and then from the Boston University School of Law. He is a member of the Connecticut, New York, New Hampshire, and New Haven County Bar Associations; the American Association for Justice; and the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association. Attorney Early was admitted to the Bar, 1971, New Hampshire and U.S. District Court, District of New Hampshire; 1973, U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit; 1975, Connecticut and U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut; 1977, U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit; 1987, United States District Court, District of Rhode Island; and 2015, New York.

Attorney Early has been recognized by two of the best lawyer rating systems in the United States. He has been selected for inclusion in **Best Lawyers**®, the oldest and most highly regarded peer-review publication company in the legal profession. He was named New Haven, Connecticut, "**Lawyer of the Year**" in 2024 & 2022, and has been recognized for his work in Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs (New Haven, CT) since 2007. In addition, he has been named a "**Super Lawyer**" by the **Super Lawyers**® rating service in recognition of his professional achievement and the high degree of peer recognition that he has earned throughout his career. No more than 5% of the lawyers in any given state are awarded this prestigious designation.



Brian Early

Brian Early graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University in 1996 with an A.B. in economics. At Harvard, Brian was awarded the Harvard College scholarship for academic achievement and was

on the Dean's List all semesters. He then attended Georgetown University Law Center where he served as an editor on *The Georgetown Law Journal* and graduated *magna cum laude* in 2000. After law school, Brian worked at Willkie Farr & Gallagher before joining Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen in 2001.

Attorney Early has been recognized by the organization **Best Lawyers**® in the areas of Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs; Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs; and Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs (New York, NY) since 2024. Within the legal profession, **Best Lawyers** has earned the reputation of being the most respectable peer-review publication company that serves as a source for both reliable and unbiased legal referrals.

With years of experience as a New York mesothelioma lawyer, Brian serves as the managing attorney of the firm's New York City office, where he concentrates his practice on representing mesothelioma victims and their families. He serves as Liaison Counsel to the court in the New York City Asbestos Litigation. He is a member of the bar in New York, California, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia. He is also admitted to practice in the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. Additionally, he is a member of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. Outside of his law practice, Brian is involved with Riprap Friends (<https://riprapfriends.org>), an organization that supports pediatric oncology patients.

Brian is a frequent speaker at professional conferences on asbestos litigation. For several years, he has served as the moderator of the Judicial Perspec-

tive panel at the Perrin New York Asbestos Litigation Conference, working alongside distinguished members of the judiciary. He has also presented on topics including asbestos-related lung cancer, the plaintiff's perspective, and the New York City Asbestos Litigation Case Management Order.



Jennifer R. Lucarelli

Attorney Lucarelli graduated from Yale University in 1995 and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame School of Law in 1999. She entered private practice in 2000 and then

joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen in the fall of 2002. Attorney Lucarelli was named a partner in the firm in 2010 as a result of her compassionate and dedicated representation of victims suffering from mesothelioma.

Over the course of her career, Attorney Lucarelli has represented over 1,000 victims of mesothelioma and has personally recovered millions of dollars of settlements on behalf of deserving clients and families. She realizes the importance of expediting financial recovery to clients without compromising medical care and treatment. Attorney Lucarelli has a thorough understanding and appreciation of both the legal and medical aspects of asbestos litigation. She is well-versed in the latest treatment options (chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery), clinical trials, and top medical centers and doctors specializing in mesothelioma across the country. Attorney Lucarelli strives to ensure that her clients are seeking and receiving the very best medical care and treatment. She is adamant about not allowing the legal process to interrupt or impede her clients' medical care and treatment.

Attorney Lucarelli has worked on hundreds of cases involving service-related and shipyard asbestos exposures (United States Navy, Merchant Marine, and Coast Guard). She has a comprehensive understanding of how veterans suffering from mesothelioma were exposed while serving in the engine and boiler rooms, as well as various other equipment

areas, aboard vessels. She has conducted extensive investigations into more than 500 U.S. Navy ships, including battleships, destroyers, aircraft carriers, cruisers, and submarines, on behalf of clients such as machinist's mates, boiler tenders, and others.

In addition to her work with veterans, Attorney Lucarelli has extensive experience representing those suffering from mesothelioma who were exposed to asbestos in a wide range of occupations and environments, including the automotive, farming, carpentry, construction, railroad, and household settings. She frequently works with clients who held union-affiliated roles such as welders, pipefitters, plumbers, machinists, and insulators, among others.

Attorney Lucarelli is admitted to practice law in Connecticut (1999), New York (2000), and the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut (2001). She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, and the New York State Bar Association.

In 2023, Attorney Lucarelli was named "**Lawyer of the Year**" in the area of Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions–Plaintiffs (New Haven, CT) by the organization **Best Lawyers**®, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal field. She has been consistently recognized by **Best Lawyers** in the same category since 2018.



Ethan J. Early

Attorney Early graduated from Princeton University in 1995, where he played varsity ice hockey for four years and received the Vaughn Cup, a team award for dedication to Princeton Hockey. He earned his law degree

from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1999, where he served as an associate editor of the *Connecticut Journal of International Law*.

Upon graduation, Attorney Early joined the law firm of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen. He is a licensed attorney in New York, Connecticut, the Southern District of New York, and the Eastern District of New York.

Since 2025, Attorney Early has been recognized by **Best Lawyers**®, the legal profession's oldest and most respected peer-review publication, for his work in Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs (New York, NY).

Attorney Early concentrates his work in asbestos bankruptcy matters. He oversees the bankruptcy department, makes bankruptcy court appearances, and addresses other bankruptcy related issues. Attorney Early spends considerable time serving on creditors' committees and trust advisory committees in bankruptcy on behalf of the firm's clients. Some of the cases in which he has worked are: *In re Metex MFG., et al.*, Case No. 12-14554 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.); *In re Specialty Products Holding Corp.*, No. 10-11780 (Bankr. D. Del.); *In re United Gilsonite Laboratories*, No. 5:11-bk-02032 (Bankr. M.D. Pa.); *In re Hercules Chemical Company, Inc.*, Case No. 08-27822 (Bankr. D.N.J.); and *In re Energy Future Holdings Corp.*, No. 14-10979 (Bankr. D. Del.).

Under his guidance, the bankruptcy department has collected hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of the firm's clients. Attorney Early constantly seeks new and creative ways to help mesothelioma victims receive the compensation they deserve through the bankruptcy process. In some cases, clients need not even file a lawsuit or undergo a deposition in order to receive substantial compensation through the bankruptcy process.



Chris Meisenkothen

Attorney Chris Meisenkothen graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts in history and sociology, earning distinction in history. He went on to receive his

J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1999 and joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen that same year.

Since then, Attorney Meisenkothen has dedicated his career to representing individuals diagnosed with mesothelioma. He has personally handled hundreds of mesothelioma cases in the Connecticut court system. Attorney Meisenkothen co-chaired a trial in 2023 involving a maintenance worker who died from mesothelioma and won a \$20 million verdict, the largest asbestos jury verdict in Connecticut history.

In 2011, Attorney Meisenkothen became a named partner in the firm. The highly regarded **Super Lawyers**® rating service first recognized him as a “*Rising Star*” (2008-2012) and later named him a “*Super Lawyer*” (2013-2025) in recognition of his professional achievements. No more than 5% of the lawyers in any given state are awarded this prestigious designation.

In 2012, the *Connecticut Law Tribune* recognized him as one of the “*Dozen Who Made a Difference*” for his contributions to asbestos litigation in the state.

Most recently, Attorney Meisenkothen was named 2026 “*Lawyer of the Year*” in the area of Personal Injury Litigation–Plaintiffs (New Haven, CT) by the organization **Best Lawyers**®. Previously, he was named “*Lawyer of the Year*” by the same organization in the area of Workers’ Compensation Law–Claimants (2022 & 2024, New Haven, CT). He has also been recognized since 2025 in the areas of Personal Injury Litigation–Plaintiffs and Workers’ Compensation Law–Claimants. **Best Lawyers** is known as the longest running and most highly regarded peer-review publication in the legal profession.

Attorney Meisenkothen has published several papers and has spoken at various seminars on mesothelioma. He also works pro bono as U.S. counsel for AFeVA, an association of Italian asbestos victims and family members from Casale Monferrato, Italy. AFeVA has been working to have honors stripped from a Swiss asbestos billionaire arising from his asbestos-cement company’s old factory in Casale

Monferrato, which caused both an epidemic of mesothelioma among the residents and workers and a major environmental disaster.

Attorney Meisenkothen is admitted to practice in Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, and Georgia, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the District of Connecticut and the Northern District of Texas, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He is a member of several professional organizations, including the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, the American Association for Justice, the American Bar Association, and the Connecticut Bar Association.



Mark R. Bibro

Attorney Mark R. Bibro graduated from Trinity College in 1993 with a B.A. in political science concentrating in international studies and minoring in Spanish. He is fluent in Spanish and worked

for the United States Olympic Committee during the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Attorney Bibro earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where he served as president of the International Law Society and was an associate editor of the *Insurance Law Journal*.

Attorney Bibro joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen in the fall of 1998 and is now a partner in the firm’s New York office. He is licensed to practice law in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, and is admitted to the federal courts in the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. He is a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the New York State Trial Lawyers Institute.

Attorney Bibro devotes the majority of his practice to representing clients diagnosed with mesothelioma. He has litigated hundreds of mesothelioma and asbestos-related cases in New York and New Jersey, and has represented clients across the

country. He has successfully brought cases against numerous new asbestos defendants, helping victims and their families recover hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation.

Since 2024, Attorney Bibro has been selected for inclusion in **Best Lawyers**®, the legal industry's oldest and most respected peer-review publication, in the areas of Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs and Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs (New York, NY).



Brian Kenney

Attorney Kenney is a graduate of Providence College and Suffolk University Law School. He began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, where he prosecuted

drug and violent offenders. As an Assistant District Attorney, Attorney Kenney tried numerous cases to verdict. He also served as a special domestic violence prosecutor in Lowell and Cambridge District Courts.

Attorney Kenney joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen in the fall of 2004 and was named a partner in the Connecticut firm in 2018. He has devoted his practice to protecting the rights of hard-working men and women diagnosed with mesothelioma and other serious illnesses caused by asbestos exposure.

Attorney Kenney has personally handled hundreds of asbestos cases in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts Superior Courts on behalf of former tradespeople, members of the military, and plant workers stricken with asbestos-related diseases. He has also handled numerous second-hand asbestos exposure cases involving family members who were unknowingly exposed to asbestos through their loved one's work clothes.

In June 2025, Attorney Kenney was part of the legal team that helped secure an \$8 million verdict for a Massachusetts grandmother diagnosed with mesothelioma in a Johnson & Johnson talcum powder lawsuit.

Attorney Kenney is licensed to practice law in Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. He is responsible for managing the firm's Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts practices.

Attorney Kenney has been identified as a “*Super Lawyer*” (2024-2025) by the **Super Lawyers**® rating service in recognition of his professional achievements. Attorney Kenney has also been recognized by the organization **Best Lawyers**® since 2023 in the area of Product Liability Litigation–Plaintiffs (New Haven, CT). The legal profession regards **Best Lawyers** as being the most respectable peer-review publication company for providing both reliable and unbiased legal referrals.



Donni Halvorson

Attorney Donni Halvorson, a Louisiana native, graduated *magna cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans in 1984 and *magna cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 1989. She

graduated third in her law school class and received numerous honors, including twelve American Jurisprudence Awards, two Student Bar Association Awards for excellence in fourteen diverse subjects, the Honorable Robert A. Ainsworth, Jr. Award, and the Jack LaNasa Award for Excellence. She was also a member of the *Loyola Law Review* and a semi-finalist in moot court.

Attorney Halvorson has participated in litigating over 1,500 individual asbestos claims against asbestos manufacturers, distributors, premise owners, and employers resulting in numerous multi-million-dollar settlements on behalf of her clients. She currently represents individuals diagnosed with mesothelioma due to military service, occupational, household, and environmental exposure to asbestos. Not only is Attorney Halvorson a litigator against corporate wrongdoers, but she is also a counselor who carefully and thoughtfully guides victims and their families through what will be one of the most difficult times in their lives. Her persistence, determination, and strong work ethic have been key to achieving outstanding results for her clients.

Attorney Halvorson is licensed to practice law in Rhode Island and Louisiana and is admitted to all Louisiana state and federal courts, as well as the United States Supreme Court. She is also accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans with disability claims. Attorney Halvorson joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen in 2006 and is a partner in the firm's Connecticut office.



Kyle Navin

Attorney Kyle Navin graduated from Trinity College in 2009 with a B.A. in both economics and history. He joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen in 2010 as a litigation paralegal. While

working at the firm, he attended law school in the evenings. In 2016, Attorney Navin graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law with a J.D. and in his coursework earned a CALI Award for Excellence in Advanced Torts.

In 2024, Attorney Navin was named a partner in the firm's Connecticut office. He is licensed to practice law in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Florida, and the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Additionally, he is an accredited attorney with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, authorized to assist veterans with disability claims.

Attorney Navin is a member of several professional associations, including the Connecticut Bar Association, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, American Bar Association, and the New Haven County Bar Association.

Attorney Navin was recently named **2026 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America** in the areas of Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs; Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs; and Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs. **Best Lawyers®** is widely regarded within the legal profession as the most respected peer-review publication, serving as a trusted and unbiased source for legal referrals. At Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen, Attorney Navin works on behalf of mesothelioma victims

in litigation matters, pursues arbitrations against asbestos bankruptcy trusts, represents clients in their claims for disability benefits from the Veterans Administration, helps resolve liens connected to our clients' medical care, and assists in addressing probate matters.



Matthew Park

Attorney Matthew Park is a senior associate at Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen. Since joining the firm in 2013, he has built a reputation as a tireless advocate for clients.

Attorney Park is a seasoned litigator where he focuses his practice on representing individuals and families in asbestos, mass tort, and personal injury litigation. He has represented a wide range of tradespeople, including, but not limited to plumbers, mechanics, steamfitters, carpenters, railroad workers, laborers, and members of the Armed Forces. He takes pride in being one who fights for his clients both in and out of the courtroom and was named a **"Rising Star"** by the **Super Lawyers®** rating service.

Prior to joining Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen, Attorney Park was an associate at another prominent asbestos litigation firm where he represented hundreds of cases from intake to resolution.

Attorney Park received his Juris Doctor from Rutgers University School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts from Trinity College. He is admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. He is also admitted to the United State District Courts for the Southern District of New York, the Eastern District of New York, and the District of New Jersey.



Jessica Liberati

Attorney Jessica Liberati obtained a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University in 2017, having double majored in political science and environmental studies. She graduated from Vermont Law School

in 2020. During law school, she served as a student clinician with the Veterans Legal Assistance Program of Vermont, where she assisted the local veteran population in obtaining benefits. Additionally, she served on the senior editorial board of the *Vermont Law Review*.

After graduating from Vermont Law School, Attorney Liberati served as a research clerk for the Civil Division of the Connecticut Superior Court, where she assisted the judiciary by performing legal research and writing on a wide variety of matters postured on the civil docket. Prior to joining Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen, Attorney Liberati worked at a Connecticut law firm focusing on workers' compensation and civil litigation. There, she was responsible for assisting with the firm's motion practice, including performing research for, writing, and arguing motions in Superior Court. Additionally, she litigated workers' compensation cases throughout the state, with a focus on cases of repetitive trauma and occupational diseases, including compensation claims related to asbestos exposure.

Attorney Liberati joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen to focus her practice on assisting clients who have been diagnosed with mesothelioma. At the firm, Attorney Liberati focuses her work on New York and Connecticut asbestos litigation practice and devotes a large portion of her practice to researching and writing legal briefs on issues that affect clients. She is licensed to practice law in Connecticut, New York, and the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. She is a member of several professional associations, including the Connecticut Bar Association and Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association.



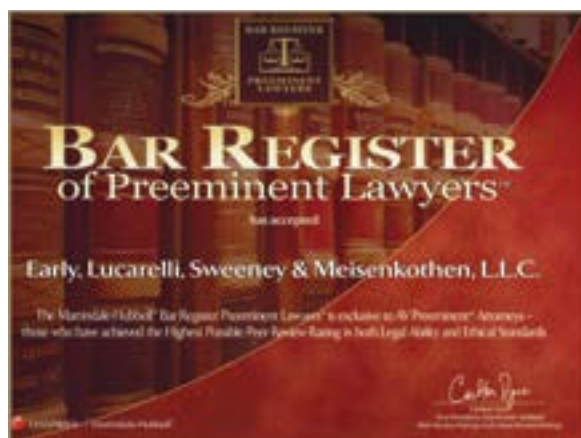
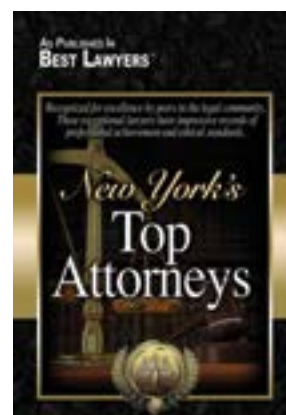
Derell D. Wilson

Attorney Derell D. Wilson is originally from Long Island, New York. He graduated with a B.A. in professional legal studies from St. John's University in 2000. Shortly

thereafter, he joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen as a paralegal.

While working, he attended law school in the evenings at Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. During his time at law school, Attorney Wilson served as managing editor of *The Journal of Race Gender and Ethnicity*. He was also the evening vice president of the Black Law Student Association, participating in the Frederick Douglass Mock Trial Competition for two consecutive years and later coaching teams.

Attorney Wilson graduated law school in 2007. He is a member of the bar and is licensed to practice in New Jersey and New York.



Recent Settlements and Verdicts

ELSM has secured nearly \$5 billion dollars in total settlements on behalf of our clients.

While ELSM focuses primarily on obtaining collectable settlements for our clients, the firm, working in collaboration with co-counsel partners, has achieved some significant verdicts in mesothelioma cases. Following are examples of just some of the verdicts:

Verdict	Case Summary
\$966 Million	A California jury awarded a combined verdict of \$966 million to a woman who was diagnosed with mesothelioma after years of using Johnson & Johnson talcum powder products. The award included \$16 million in compensatory damages and \$950 million in punitive damages. — <i>Co-counsel: Dean Omar Branham Shirley</i>
\$82 Million	A 67-year-old Washington state man's wife was awarded \$82 million on behalf of her deceased husband who was diagnosed with mesothelioma. He was a frequent user of brakes, gaskets, and other auto products from a popular auto parts maker. — <i>Co-counsel: Dean Omar Branham Shirley</i>
\$52 Million	A California jury awarded a combined verdict of \$52 million to a woman who was diagnosed with mesothelioma after years of using cosmetic products containing asbestos-contaminated talc. The woman was also found to have endured secondhand asbestos exposure from laundering her husband's work clothes. — <i>Co-counsel: Dean Omar Branham Shirley</i>
\$27 Million	Punitive damages in the amount of \$27 million were awarded to a 74-year-old South Carolina man who was diagnosed with mesothelioma after years of working with asbestos containing gaskets and packing in valves. — <i>Co-counsel: Simon Greenstone Panatier</i>
\$25 Million	A Connecticut jury awarded a verdict of \$15 million (plus \$10 million in punitive damages) to a man diagnosed with mesothelioma after using Johnson & Johnson baby powder. — <i>Co-counsel: Dean Omar Branham Shirley</i>
\$22.5 Million	A Connecticut jury awarded a verdict of \$15 million (plus \$7.5 million in punitive damages) to the estate of a man who was diagnosed with mesothelioma after being exposed to asbestos-contaminated talc while working as a process engineer at a GE Plastics facility in Massachusetts. — <i>Co-counsel: Dean Omar Branham Shirley</i>
\$20 Million	A Bridgeport, Connecticut jury returned a verdict for \$20 million in compensatory damages to the wife of a man diagnosed with mesothelioma. Her late husband was exposed to asbestos in the 1960s while working with asbestos-containing DAP "33" window glazing. — <i>Co-counsel: Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel</i>

The following table cites some of our recent collectable settlements and illustrates a sampling of our extensive nationwide experience in the representation and/or acquisition of financial compensation on the behalf of our mesothelioma clients who reside throughout the 50 United States.

State	Disease	Occupation / Exposure	Age	Approximate Monies to Date
WA	Mesothelioma	Mechanic / Abatement Worker	66	\$102,200,000
AZ	Mesothelioma	Cosmetic Talc User	75	\$22,200,000
NY	Mesothelioma	Talc Powder User	59	\$20,000,000
RI	Mesothelioma	Home Renovator	75	\$15,100,000
NV	Mesothelioma	Electrician	62	\$13,800,000
CA	Mesothelioma	Plumber / Mechanic	49	\$13,500,000
CT	Mesothelioma	Abatement Worker / Painter	70	\$12,600,000
OH	Mesothelioma	Pipefitter / Home Renovator	58	\$12,200,000
NV	Mesothelioma	Pipefitter	65	\$12,000,000
CA	Mesothelioma	Navy Veteran / Dry Wall Sprayer	48	\$11,700,000
KY	Mesothelioma	Air Force Veteran / Boilermaker	84	\$11,700,000
MD	Mesothelioma	Hairdresser / Home Renovator	66	\$11,500,000
NC	Mesothelioma	Surgeon / Army Veteran	62	\$11,500,000
PA	Mesothelioma	Talc Powder User	47	\$10,600,000
GA	Mesothelioma	Cosmetic Talc User / Teacher	87	\$10,400,000
SC	Mesothelioma	Engineer / Salesperson	78	\$9,900,000
VA	Mesothelioma	Navy Veteran	57	\$9,500,000
FL	Mesothelioma	Home Renovator / Air Force Veteran	50	\$9,400,000
OK	Mesothelioma	Construction Worker	47	\$9,300,000
IL	Mesothelioma	Coast Guard Veteran / Engineer	62	\$8,800,000
NJ	Mesothelioma	Construction Worker / Machinist	65	\$8,800,000
WI	Mesothelioma	Pipefitter	76	\$7,600,000
SC	Mesothelioma	Army Veteran / Shipyard Worker	80	\$7,500,000
LA	Mesothelioma	Office Worker / Homemaker	68	\$7,400,000
TN	Mesothelioma	Army Veteran / Air Force Veteran	79	\$7,200,000
FL	Mesothelioma	Navy Worker / Operating Engineer	57	\$7,100,000
MI	Mesothelioma	Plant Worker	61	\$7,000,000
WV	Mesothelioma	Navy Worker / Machinist	51	\$6,900,000
AZ	Mesothelioma	Navy Veteran	64	\$6,700,000
WA	Mesothelioma	Plumber	61	\$6,500,000
NC	Mesothelioma	Home Renovator / Plant Worker	70	\$6,300,000
MD	Mesothelioma	Navy Veteran / Ironworker	62	\$6,200,000
KY	Mesothelioma	Navy Veteran / Utility Worker	77	\$6,100,000
MN	Mesothelioma	HVAC Contractor / Construction Worker	71	\$6,100,000
MO	Mesothelioma	Mechanic	79	\$6,000,000
NJ	Mesothelioma	Navy Worker / Plumber	64	\$6,000,000

Please Note: Individual cases vary based on a number of factors and prior results do not guarantee similar outcomes.

Testimonials From Our Clients

“Thank you so much for all your assistance as my husband and I went through the most difficult time in our lives. My husband’s Mesothelioma diagnosis was, to say the least, a shock. Your professionalism and insight were greatly appreciated as we stepped through the legal process.

You, Kyle, and all team members are “World Class” and provided exceptional service professionally and personally. The legal expertise was amazing along with the empathy bestowed.

Chris, I can’t say enough good things about the integrity of the Firm. It is very refreshing to see dedicated employees passionate about their work. Going above and beyond was demonstrated every time I/we interacted with ELSM.

My husband passed away knowing that this claim was in good hands with the right Firm. He would shake your hand and say, “thank you very much Chris for taking care of us”. I miss him every day. ☺☺

With Sincere Thanks, Judy B.

“Dear Mark,
Where do I begin to express our feelings about the help you have given us.

At first coming to Annapolis to explain how the firm can help us. Then keeping in touch and setting up the depositions and reams of paperwork to make our case productive.

Ace has always been a capable, active man. Yard work, fixing things, maintaining our home, came easy for him as an engineer. As this disease and cancer progressed, he was less able to do these things that he liked doing.

So being blessed with these amounts of money to cover some of these jobs was necessary.

Also the help we got through the firm with his Navy disability was another avenue that helped speed the paperwork!

Mark, we can never thank you enough! We (our family) plan to remain in our house for the foreseeable future. That would not be possible if we had not been blessed with the financial peace of mind.

We also feel you have become a friend and care about our well-being.☺☺

Sincerely, Ace & Lynne

“When I was diagnosed with mesothelioma, the first thing I did was research my medical treatment options. Then I made a decision and got my treatments started. I have to admit, the treatment choice I selected turned out to be pretty brutal. Fortunately, I’m doing well now. The other item I researched was what, if any, legal options did I have? It turns out I had many. I researched several of the law firms that advertised specialization in cases of mesothelioma and then I started with telephone interviews. That was followed by a handful of face to face interviews and finally I decided to work with the Early group. Brian Early and Matthew Park were the people I worked with the most. No time was wasted in filing suit against the appropriate corporations. Depositions were scheduled soon after. Most importantly, I am happy with the results of the lawsuits. I was fortunate that reasonable settlements were able to be negotiated by Brian and Matthew. An actual trial was avoided. If I was ever in a similar situation I would be happy to work with these talented professionals again. I think I

would be hard pressed to find two attorneys as knowledgeable about the science behind mesothelioma and as skilled in presenting the details of my case as Brian Early and Matt Park. I am very grateful for all that they have done for me and for my family. ☺☺

Jim S.

“My husband was diagnosed with mesothelioma in December 2021. In an attempt to learn more about this devastating disease, we conducted an online search. Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen, LLC seemed to have a great deal of information. We reached out to them and received materials that provided comprehensive information regarding asbestos exposure. We followed up with a telephone conversation with Donni Halvorson. After speaking with my husband, Ms. Halvorson suggested that he had a strong case to pursue. She then put us in touch with another attorney in the firm, Matthew Park, who would be handling the case for us.

Matt travelled from Connecticut to our home to meet with us and discuss what would be involved in this litigation. My husband and I both had an instant rapport with him. He was incredibly kind, patient and knowledgeable regarding mesothelioma and asbestos exposure. After our initial meeting with Matt, we decided to retain his law firm to handle my husband's case.

Unfortunately, my husband's health deteriorated rapidly. With great sensitivity and kindness, Matt

worked diligently to expedite the proceedings. He was excellent about keeping us up to date and checking in with us to see how we were. This extended to his personal time on weekends and holidays.

Sadly, I lost my beloved husband in 2022. But thanks to Matt's diligent efforts, our family received an award that will give us financial peace of mind.

On behalf of my late husband and family, I thank you for your compassion, hard work and understanding during this most difficult time of our lives. ☺☺

Jennifer A.

“Mark, what you and your firm did on my Father's behalf and for the benefit of our family exceeded all my expectations. Our Father spent his life caring for his wife and children and did it with relentless passion and enduring love. You made it possible for him to continue caring for his family even after his demise and in ways he never could have imagined when he was with us. He rests in peace knowing his wife and children are well cared for through the combination of his lifelong efforts and yours.

On behalf of my entire family, Thank You for your relentless pursuit of justice on behalf of my Father. Words cannot express our gratitude and we will be forever grateful to you. ☺☺

Barry Carvalho

“Jessica, what you and Ben and the entire team at DOBS and ELSM were able to do on our Father’s behalf was simply amazing. Your tireless pursuit of justice left our family in awe. It seemed as if you and your team were fighting for your own Father’s justice, not that of a client. You fought your hearts out for us all the way to the Supreme Court and earned a unanimous decision for Doy and the family. We are eternally grateful for all that you have done for us and we know Doy is looking down on us all with a huge smile knowing that we have been taken care of. We came together on this journey as strangers, and we left as great friends.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you and your entire team for all the love, compassion, care, and tireless work you did for us. We were truly blessed to have you in our lives. ”

Raquel and Roxanne

“Hi Chris - The boys and I are eternally grateful (and I really mean that) for all that you have done for our family. Financially we are in a place that we NEVER would have been with my husband passing if you had not helped us out. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I now live in a wonderful 55+ new condo community with an amazing group of people – and had the funds to finish the lower level for my son to have a great space when he comes home from school. We are both doing well there.

I am sure that my husband is smiling down from where he is and is full of gratitude too. ”

Sincerely, Sue V

“I’ve been intending to write for some time to thank you and your firm for all of your hard work and expertise in representing my husband, Carl, and myself, in the asbestos litigation.

We were fortunate to have been made aware of your firm and I am appreciative of the guidance and understanding you provided during this most difficult time.

I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend you and your firm to anyone who is in need of legal counsel. ”

Dayle Smith

“I wanted to thank all of you, especially Chris, in how you handled the process of our lawsuit. As you know my husband John was stricken with mesothelioma at the age of 55. His diagnosis was terminal, and it was important to him that he left his family with the knowledge that they would be taken care of. During the process of our lawsuit, Chris became part of our family and took us through the process with much care and concern for John and myself. Although it was a difficult period for us, we got through it with the help and compassion of Chris and his staff. I feel Chris is a great asset to the firm. He especially helped me after John’s death to get through much of the anxiety of caring for my family going forward without my partner. I can now go on with the confidence that I can support myself and my family financially and emotionally. Thank you again for your continued help and support, we are forever grateful! ”

Very truly yours, Angela Boyle and Family

“I would like to express our gratitude to you and your entire staff for the excellent service. I was diagnosed with malignant pleural mesothelioma in February 2009. I contacted your office and within a few days Jennifer Lucarelli arrived at our door and met with my entire family. Jennifer knew more about mesothelioma than most doctors that I had seen. Making the decision to pursue a lawsuit did not come easy, but it was the right decision. Bob Sweeney arrived a few weeks later and worked with me, asked questions and investigated my work history. Bob helped alleviate the stress of doing a deposition. Bob worked with us in good times and in bad during the numerous issues that I incurred. I felt free to call upon him at any time.

I also would like to thank Donni Young for her hard work at court and after court, along with others too numerous to mention. Your firm is extremely knowledgeable in mesothelioma laws. You have all worked hard on my behalf. I sincerely want to thank you for your dedication, kindness and friendship. ☺☺

Always, Frank A. “Butch” Blanchard

“In November 2009, my father-in-law Chuck was diagnosed with Mesothelioma, a rare cancer caused by asbestos. He was a railroad worker for 39 years. After his diagnosis, we started researching law firms who specialize in this field and my daughter-in-law came upon your firm while researching for us on the internet. We contacted your firm and we were put in contact with Ms. Jennifer Lucarelli. She was a breath of fresh air and it was a relief for us to have her helping us. She flew out to our father-in-law’s apartment in St. Paul, and he was immediately taken with her down to earth personality. She laid everything out, such as time

lines as to how this type of lawsuit proceeds and she was very honest and up front in everything she explained to us.

Sadly, we lost Chuck on August 2, 2010. He was able to hold the first of the proceeds checks from one of the companies that Jennifer helped us recover. All he said was, “I can’t believe it” with tears in his eyes. He thought this may all have been a waste of time, but thanks to Jennifer and her associates, we were able to prove him wrong and he passed knowing everyone would be taken care of. ☺☺

Steven and Katherine Nahl

“I am very pleased with the law firm and feel that they have always had my best interest at heart. Whenever I have had questions to be answered, I could (and can) count on prompt answers by calling the person with whom I have had the most contact, Jennifer Lucarelli. She has always treated me like a life-long friend. ☺☺

Shirley Lamphere

“To the Staff and all the Workers - I do not like the way you came into my life but I “Thank God” you all did. Your life is turned upside down after 58 years and you are so lost when you lose a family member from asbestos.

I have not received a penny yet, but that is not why I’m writing. I’m doing this for every heart that is so hurt you don’t know where to turn or what to do. You feel no one cares. Then a letter comes saying they have found some of the places Jim worked and all these great people at your firm who are doing all this work is so you can maybe keep your home. The heart still hurts but a lot of the worry is over.

I want to “Thank God” for every one of you even if you never heard of me but are working for others just like me. You are all angels (guardian angels) in my heart. You all are some of the greatest people in the world and the work you labor over does so much for the brokenhearted families.

So please don't stop - keep up your labors. I'm sure there were many before me and I'm sure there are more to follow. I “Thank God” for people like you. Please keep up your heartfelt work. My husband died April 12, 2009, our son's 52nd birthday. Our son David also died of cancer May 1, 2009, 19 days after Jim. So God Bless all of you. ☺☺

A friend forever, Midge Miller

☺☺ Dear Jennifer - My wife Andrea and I would like to extend our deep gratitude and appreciation for your hard work and efforts that professionals like yourself, Annette Charlevois, and the law firm of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen extended to us and families suffering like us.

The type of care that I am receiving requires high maintenance and much of our time is spent with a team of specialists and family members helping us out.

Trusting you to handle our mesothelioma case put us in touch with a California Law firm that made our case move faster through the California court system. The team of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen knew where to guide us and how to take on the corporate giants. You became our voice and the scales of justice shifted in our favor. With you at our side, we received some recompense and a much-needed vindication. This enables us to focus on Jesus' health care.

Thanks again for all your hard work and for taking on our case. ☺☺

Jesus and Andrea Munoz

☺☺ We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the great team effort in representing us with our mesothelioma case. It has given us peace of mind through this difficult year. July of '06, Charlie, at age 68, was diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma from exposure in the 60's and 70's to asbestos. Dr. Mason at the Cleveland Clinic felt Charlie would be physically strong enough for the extrapleural pneumonectomy procedure. Because of the severity of this disease, and the side effects of this surgery, we decided to look into an asbestos law firm to help determine our eligibility for an asbestos case and get the wheels in motion before his operation.

Through research and many family discussions, we asked Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen to visit us in Ohio to discuss our options regarding Charlie's work background and exposures. Jennifer Lucarelli promptly came to the privacy of our home and spent several hours answering our questions and explaining how the process would work. Her professionalism during the visit gave us the comfort level to proceed to the next step.

Within a week, your attorneys flew to Ohio, met with Charlie, and spent considerable time to understand Charlie's work experience building and installing pipe organs, as well as his military background, focusing on the timeframe where he was working with asbestos. After Charlie had his chemotherapy sessions we had our depositions in Ohio. You coordinated and handled the process and then took the case forward from that point

and worked on our behalf while we focused on the surgery and long recovery. We knew that you were working every day for us even though we only talked once a week or e-mailed during this trying period. We have had several of the defense attorneys tell us we have great attorneys and how dedicated they are to their clients.

Our jury trial was set for October 2007 and Robert Sweeney represented us as our trial lawyer. Even though Bob was extremely well prepared for our case and ready to take it to completion our case was settled after jury selection and before it made it to court. Bob is very personable and well respected among his peers and our confidence level never wavered. Bob made a great impression on us, the potential jurors and, we believe, the defense lawyers.

Our team at the law firm was negotiating during this time to get our case settled so they could get Charlie back to the comfort of his own home. Charlie required extra support to handle travel and the law firm provided us with paralegals to escort us to and from the courthouse. They never left our side each day during the trial preparations.

In summary, this disease has seemed insurmountable at times and we were not sure we could simultaneously handle a lawsuit. Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen made sure we did not have additional stress in our lives and came through for us in many different and unexpected ways. Our settlements have been more than we ever expected and we know it would not have happened without our team! We both thank you each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts! 💕💕

Sincerely, Susan and Charles Litherland

“I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to you and the entire staff for the caring and professionalism in which you are handling my husband's mesothelioma case. From the moment we met you we knew there was something special about you. My husband is very protective of his family and home but he trusted you from the start and if you managed to gain his trust and confidence we knew you would be great and you have been. We were unaware of what options were available to us at the beginning of the case; you and your firm have guided us through the most difficult time in our lives. Your compassion, understanding, and excellent sense of humor have been instrumental in helping us undertake this legal action. My husband's fighting the disease is difficult and not having to “fight” a legal battle is indeed a blessing. Your knowledge of mesothelioma law and your dedication and willingness to work hard on our behalf is allowing us to move through this process with ease and a sense of dignity. 💕💕

Sincerely, Sybil McGann & Family

“Dear Chris - My family and I want to say a very heartfelt THANK YOU to you and the staff at Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen, for all you've done thus far on behalf of our father, Walter H. Gray.

We have peace in knowing how proud our father would be that you and the lawyers have fought on his behalf. All the hard work and long hours he endured has not been in vain. Even though our father was a regular man, who had worked all his life, you have treated him the same as some of the others who lead a much different path than he did in life. The individuals who have had to battle this fierce disease,

the mesothelioma makes all workers the same. This disease took him in the golden age of life, it's coming up on a year the 11th day of April, seems as if it were yesterday.

The financial support has been a blessing to our family also. To help finish our father's affairs has meant a lot to us. He left us with the peace of knowing that his children would not have to bear a burden of trying to make ends meet because of him. From our hearts, again we say THANK YOU and may God bless everyone at the firm who fights for those who have lost to mesothelioma. But most of all for those who continue to fight and fight until the end.

Chris, there aren't words to write that can express our gratitude. We do hope and pray blessings and favor be bestowed on you and your family for all you've done for the late Walter H. Gray. My family and I are truly blessed and grateful for you. 💞

Sincerely yours, Janette Gray, Daughter of Walter

“I've said it before and I will say it again...it is so refreshing to deal with “real people” at ELSM and not just somebody doing their job. That means so much to me and it is exactly how my dad would have wanted things done.

After Donni came to visit with us, we sat and talked with dad to determine if taking legal action was something we wanted to pursue. What helped us most in the decision-making process was the way Donni made us “feel” while visiting – like “real people” and that the family was the “reason” to move forward. She helped us see that these things were much more important than the paperwork and the money – that is what made us know we were with

the right law firm. We have never regretted going through with this process for one minute – we just wish that dad could have been around to see it all come to fruition.

There is a saying that we often use in the school system: “People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!”

Lawyers can easily fall into the grips of their education and forget about “caring.” Take comfort in knowing that you have a client who “knows how much you care”. 💞

Sincerely, Lisa Leighton

“On April 20, 2006, my wife was diagnosed with mesothelioma. This is a day I will never forget. We knew very little about this disease except that there was no cure. M.D. Anderson physicians wanted to perform an extremely radical surgery, if my wife proved to be an approved candidate. Since our knowledge was so limited, we began reading any books and material we could find at a hospital library. Much of the material we discovered was being provided by Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen, a law firm based out of Connecticut.

Armed with our newly acquired knowledge and the professional opinions of three physicians our decision was made and we returned home to Louisiana. I called the office of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen to express my thanks for the information they were providing and was blessed to speak with Attorney Jennifer Lucarelli.

Ms. Lucarelli was a real sweetheart taking the time to answer any and all of my questions. She flew to Lafayette to come to our home and meet with us. Although there was no obligation, there was an instant connection between us. Her vast knowledge of this disease was reassuring. Her compassion was so real. By the time she left, we were very comfortable and excited to retain her as our mesothelioma lawyer.

Jennifer stays in touch with us both professionally and personally. She is a very intelligent attorney but more importantly she has become a very good friend. She really cares about us as a family not just as another case.

Ms. Lucarelli is a valuable asset to her firm. Meeting and hiring Jennifer Lucarelli was one of the best decisions I ever made. I would not hesitate to recommend Jennifer to any of my family members or anyone else. ☺☺

Sincerely, Norman A. Lerille, Jr.

“Cathy and I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to you, Jim Early, Bob Sweeney and your entire staff for the caring and professionalism in which you handled our mesothelioma case. We are more than pleased with the settlements you have secured on our behalf and honestly, never expected such results.

Unaware of the possibilities available to us at the onset of the case, you and your firm guided us through one of the most difficult times in our lives. Your compassion, understanding, and “good humor” were instrumental in helping us undertake this legal action with ease and dignity. Fighting the disease is difficult enough, not having to “fight” in

the courts was a blessing. Your knowledge of mesothelioma law and your dedication and willingness to work hard on our behalf allowed our case to be settled in a relatively short period of time.

Please don't be a stranger. We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you soon. ☺☺

Sincerely, Nick and Cathy Varni

“Dear Mr. Early - I am writing to thank you for the dedication, warmth and compassion you showed my grandparents Milton & Roberta Chaifetz.

When my grandfather was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2003, my family had to deal with the shock of a perfectly healthy man leaving our lives prematurely. The hard work you and your firm performed could not dispel the loss of my grandfather but it greatly improved the quality of life my grandmother had for the past 8 ½ years.

My family and I want you to know how thankful and appreciative we are that my grandparents were put in you and your firm's good hands. ☺☺

*Sincerely yours,
Kimberly Winter & The Winter Family*

“Dear Mr. Early - Now that my deposition is over, I felt I had to write and let you know how fortunate I was to have your firm represent me. Since this was my first experience in such matters, I appreciated the expertise of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen. Your professionalism throughout the entire deposition impressed me to no end. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend your services to my family or friends. ☺☺

Yours truly, Joseph Buscemi

“I just want to say “thank you” again for all of your professional assistance and expertise given to my late beloved husband, Don. You are a terrific mesothelioma lawyer and a wonderful person as well. Don felt very comfortable with you. He felt that he could turn to you and your firm at any time and did not feel alone during his trying and difficult ordeal with mesothelioma.

It is just three months ago since Don passed away. I have been wanting to email this letter to you for quite some time and decided today would be the right time. I personally want to thank you and also thank Lindalea Ludwick and Jennifer Lucarelli. They have been very helpful to us also.

I am sympathetic to any person who ever had or will have mesothelioma. It is a destroying, ugly disease. Thank God for people like you who care for the victims and their families. We felt so alone until we met you and the nice people that work for Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen. ☺☺

Sincerely yours, Joan Fordham

“Dear Ms. Ludwick and Mr. Sweeney - I want to thank both of you, and all those associates who worked on our case, for everything you did to secure a major settlement on behalf of my husband, David. It gives my children and me a sense of justice to know that David has been compensated in some way for the wrong that was done to him by the manufacturers of asbestos. The award will help secure my retirement and will provide our children with some additional income at this point in their lives when it can make a significant difference to them. Although you notified me of the settlement

last October, I was not going to believe it until the checks arrived. With everything now in place, I can take a deep breath and move ahead.

Thank you for all your hard work, for your persistence, and for your gentleness in handling this case during a very trying time for David. I know that he would be pleased to see that his hard work has come to something significant. My very best to all of you. ☺☺

God bless you, Virginia C. Falcone

“My family and I cannot thank you enough for all the help and support that you have given us during the months that Steve was so sick. In the final weeks before Steve died, he told me that it was a consolation to him to know that you would make sure that I would not have to worry about finances after he was gone. When Steve was diagnosed with mesothelioma, we didn't have a clue who to turn to for help. We had never used a law firm except for the closing on our home 45 years ago. We were so lucky that someone recommended that we contact Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen.

Chris, I especially want you to know that Steve thought the world of you. He trusted you completely and never doubted that you cared about him – not only as a client but also as a person. Please thank Lindalea Ludwick and Bob Sweeney for all the many hours they put into our case, and my very special thanks to Ryan Leichsenring for always making me feel that my phone calls, questions and concerns were never a bother.

Again, thank you so much. You made what was a very painful time a bit easier for all of us. ☺☺

Sincerely, Gabrielle Haley

“Dear Mr. Early – While I have not had the pleasure of meeting you – I have met a number of your partners and associates. These meetings took place during the worst possible time of my life. My husband was so very ill – these men and women were so compassionate and caring.

It’s really ironic – most people have the impression that lawyers in general are cold and calculating people. We, Jack and I, found your law firm was the very opposite. Perhaps it’s because you’ve all dealt with this awful disease. Mesothelioma has to be one of the worst diseases on record. You must be very proud of your son, Brian. What a fine young man he is. Jack said to me – “if he’d had a son, he would have wanted him to be like Brian!” That’s a huge compliment coming from him.

I can’t begin to describe how much you all helped us. You gave Jack something to live for – HOPE! He was able to convince Jack that he could fight for us and win. You must know that circumstances took everything away from Jack. He lost control of his life – even of his body. The depression that set in was so awful to watch. You gave him back control and pride. The anger that you gave him, “permission if you will,” to use was just what he needed. The depression lifted and he became determined to do as much as possible to help the law firm punish those companies responsible for his illness and to ensure my never having to worry about paying bills again.

I can only hope that somehow, somewhere he knows (he died March 7th) that your people are living up to all your promises. ☺☺

Thank you all again, Joan C. Hansen

“I wanted to write and thank the Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen family for the wonderful job they did handling Dan’s mesothelioma case. When we called them in May of 2002, we were scared to death of what was happening to Dan. Jim Early came here to our home and made us feel so comfortable about the lawsuit that Dan was rightfully entitled to. He was very knowledgeable about mesothelioma which was a new and scary word to us. He assured us that everything would be done to help Dan get a settlement, so he could be at peace knowing that our 16-year-old daughter and I would be taken care of.

Everything happened so fast, Dan wasn’t feeling well and Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen was always willing to work around his illness and how he was feeling at the time. Your attorneys were so confident and knew exactly what they were doing. Dan was amazed at all the things their discussions rekindled in his head that he thought he left behind in the Navy, 32 years ago. Mr. Early and his attorneys knew their stuff when it came to asbestos and the shipyards. We felt as though everyone there at the firm knew us personally and that meant a lot.

Here it is April 2003 and Dan is still hanging in there, he has good days and bad days, but we thank God for every day we have. It has been less than a year since we first met you all and all of the cases have been settled, at an amount much larger than we could have ever imagined. If you only knew what this has done for Dan. He is so appreciative that you have given him such peace of mind.

Dan was diagnosed one year ago, in April, and this has been the worst year of our 35 years together. We have been through surgeries, chemo, blood transfusions, numerous hospital stays, and moving to a new city for 6 weeks. We've had lots of ups and downs, but we are still hanging in there. Dan's determination is so admirable, he is a fighter and he never gives up. We pray every day that the cure for mesothelioma will save Dan's life. Thanks to your firm, we will be able to do some things that otherwise would not have been able to. Once again, we would like to thank and pray you can help others as you have us. ☺☺

May God Bless you all, Dan and Debbie Dicken

☺☺ Thank you for all your hard work, which is paying off so handsomely now. I am hereby sending you a token of my appreciation for all that you have accomplished in my father's case. I feel confident that he would say you have done a "truly fantastic" job. I realize that we are not done yet, but did not want to delay any further in sending this to you. I know that you were interested in these WWII "launch" envelopes. As you probably recall, my father had promised them to a friend of mine, who is an avid history buff. Happily, Ted agreed to give up one so that you could have it-and here it is. I tried to choose one that I felt was a suitable reminder of my father, hence my choice of this one that he addressed and mailed to his own home address. I hope you will enjoy having this and think fondly of my Dad when viewing it. ☺☺

With all Good Wishes, Joan Vigliotta

☺☺ Margie and I would like to extend our heart-felt thanks to Jim Early, and his entire staff for the way you have handled our case. We are extremely

pleased with the settlements that you secured on our behalf. We are thankful that we came across your firm's website while searching for information on mesothelioma. Your compassion and understanding were instrumental in helping us through the most difficult time of our lives. Our biggest fear in undertaking legal action was that our lives would be subject to intense scrutiny, that there would be a lengthy and contentious trial, and that reaching a settlement would take many years. Thankfully, none of these fears materialized. The fact that the entire process was successfully completed in a very short period of time is testimony to you and your team's in-depth knowledge of the law and your willingness to work very hard on our behalf. We look forward to our continued relationship. ☺☺

Sincerely, Cal & Marge Stilphen

☺☺ My name is Bruce W. Slane and I was diagnosed with mesothelioma in September of 1997 at the age of 23. I was referred to the firm of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen by a member of my family's congregation.

When I first started working with your firm, I was recovering from surgery for the removal of my lung and undergoing very extensive radiation therapy. At our first meeting, I was very impressed with the attorneys' extensive knowledge about asbestos, the law and the disease mesothelioma itself. They were also extremely knowledgeable about the leading doctors in the field, pathologists and treatment options. They were always very informative and encouraging.

I have found the attorneys and staff at Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen to always be

very helpful. They fought hard on my behalf and I am very pleased with the results. I highly recommend the law firm of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen. ☺☺

Sincerely, Bruce Slane

☺☺ Mr. Early, I would like to personally thank you and your firm for the recent settlement for my mother, Constance Senatore. It could not have happened to a better person and one certainly in need. Please express my deepest appreciation to those who worked on her behalf. I would also extend to you, if needed, to be a reference who you can count on.

I knew you had to be an ethical lawyer, when I asked my neighbor, who also is an attorney, about how you judge one who is. He said, if the lawyer took the time to meet the potential client in person, then it is a good indication. I had a smile on my face, because you said to me you were going to fly to Florida and meet with my mom. And you did. At that point, I felt we had made the right choice. I want you to also know that there is a smile on my mom's face and a sense of tension relieved, knowing she won't have to depend on others. She cried when she read your settlement letter.

It was tears of relief. However, she wished Dad was there, and would rather give the money back for him to be alive. We know that cannot happen, but your firm's hard work will make life for her a little easier to go on.

On behalf of my mother and I, please accept our deepest gratitude. When your firm determines there are no other avenues to pursue, please let her know so she does not have any future hopes. ☺☺

Sincerely, Richard Senatore

Martindale-Hubbell Rating

Dear Mr. Early:

I am pleased to inform you that you have been awarded the highest accolade in Martindale-Hubbell; an AV rating. This is as a result of an extensive, confidential review conducted among the legal profession in your community.

Your AV rating is important because it is a confirmation of the status you have achieved as a highly respected, ethical member of the Bar. It signifies that your legal abilities are of the very highest standard and that your professional ethics are unquestioned.

You now join a select group of attorneys who have been recognized by their peers for their legal expertise and professional reputation. Your rating will be included in Martindale-Hubbell in print, on CD-ROM and online through LEXIS service.

Martindale-Hubbell has gone to considerable lengths to confirm the validity of your rating. To maintain the accuracy of ratings, periodic reevaluations are conducted.

If you have any questions about your rating or other aspects of Martindale-Hubbell's services, please do not hesitate to give us a call. Your comments, suggestions and ideas will help us better serve you in the future.

Our congratulations to you on your new rating.

Sincerely,
Edward J. Roycroft, Jr.
Vice President

P.S. The same rating will also appear for your firm.



Giving Back

Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen (ELSM) is committed to supporting prominent asbestos and mesothelioma organizations. The vast majority of ELSM clients are mesothelioma victims and/or their family members.

Through our work with our clients, we've seen the devastating impact of asbestos disease firsthand. This perspective has strengthened our resolve to provide financial support for organizations that advocate for patients, educate the public, and fund critical research. Two organizations we proudly sponsor are the **Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation** and the **Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization**.

We Support the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation



The Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation (formerly known as MARF) is a nonprofit collaboration of patients, physicians, researchers, and advocates dedicated to eliminating mesothelioma. The work of the Foundation focuses on advancing care for mesothelioma patients by funding research aimed at developing better treatment options, supporting patients and families through education and resources, and advocating for increased federal funding of research.

The Foundation believes in a cure for mesothelioma and believes the resources to achieve a cure are currently available and should be mobilized responsibly, as effectively as possible, and with financial transparency.

Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen is proud to be a dedicated sponsor of the mission and vision of the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation. Through its financial support of the Foundation, ELSM demonstrates its continued commitment to helping find a cure for mesothelioma.

We Support the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization



The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) is the largest independent nonprofit organization in the United States focused on asbestos-related issues. Founded in 2004 by victims and their families, ADAO works to prevent asbestos exposure, end asbestos-related diseases, and defend asbestos victims' rights through education, advocacy, and community initiatives.

Through the generous support of its donors, ADAO has continued to fulfill its mission over the years to raise awareness about the ongoing dangers of asbestos, advocate for a global ban, support research for prevention and a cure, and offer a space for victims to connect and find resources.

Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen remains firmly committed to ADAO's mission of promoting global asbestos awareness. The vast majority of our clients are mesothelioma victims and/or their family members. Their experiences continue to inspire our financial support of organizations like ADAO.

Other Causes We Support

In addition to the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation and the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, ELSM is proud to support causes focused on cancer research, pediatric care, wish fulfillment, and humanitarian aid. Below is a partial list of the charities and organizations we are honored to stand behind.



American Cancer Society: A nationwide non-profit dedicated to ending cancer through research, advocacy, education, and patient support services. This organization funds lifesaving research, pushes for health policy changes, and assists patients and families facing cancer.



International Mesothelioma Program (IMP) at Brigham and Women's Hospital: Brigham and Women's Hospital is a founding member of the IMP, the world's largest and most comprehensive center dedicated to the treatment and study of mesothelioma. With a multidisciplinary team of over 80 specialists, the program offers cutting-edge treatments, including advanced surgeries pioneered by the late Dr. David Sugarbaker, alongside clinical trials, genetic research, and robust support services.



Children's Oncology Group Foundation: The fundraising arm of the Children's Oncology Group (COG), the world's largest pediatric cancer research network. It directs donations toward breakthrough clinical trials, pediatric cancer research, and improved treatments for young patients.



Make-A-Wish Foundation: Grants life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses, providing emotional relief, renewed strength, and lasting hope. Supported by a passionate nationwide volunteer and donor network, Make-A-Wish has granted more than 615,000 wishes worldwide since its inception.



Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital: A nationally ranked pediatric acute care hospital in Manhattan, part of Mount Sinai Health System. It offers advanced, family-centered care, clinical research, and child life programs for ages 0–21.



Project Ukraine (Project UA): A nonprofit delivering humanitarian and medical aid to people in Ukraine. All donations go directly to providing ambulances, medical equipment, and social support amid the ongoing conflict.



Smilow Cancer Hospital: Connecticut's leading NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center, affiliated with Yale University. Smilow offers personalized treatment, cutting-edge research, and integrative medicine services.

We will gladly come visit you

wherever you are to introduce ourselves.

Getting Started

Meet the Welcome Team



Meet Attorney Jennifer Lucarelli

Attorney Jennifer Lucarelli is a highly accomplished lawyer with decades of experience representing victims of mesothelioma. A gradu-

ate of Yale University and the University of Notre Dame School of Law, she joined Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen in 2002 and became a partner in 2010. Her dedication to securing justice for clients and their families has earned her national recognition, including being named ***“Lawyer of the Year”*** in the area of Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions–Plaintiffs (New Haven, CT) by **Best Lawyers®** in 2023.

Throughout her career, Attorney Lucarelli has represented more than 1,000 mesothelioma victims and their families, recovering millions of dollars in settlements on their behalf. She combines her legal expertise with an in-depth understanding of the

medical aspects of asbestos-related diseases, ensuring her clients receive both financial compensation and access to the best possible medical care. Her knowledge of current treatment options, clinical trials, and top mesothelioma specialists nationwide allows her to guide clients through both the legal and medical challenges of their diagnosis with skill and compassion.

Attorney Lucarelli’s experience involves a wide range of asbestos exposures, including those among veterans, shipyard workers, and individuals in trades such as construction, railroads, and manufacturing. Her extensive investigations into asbestos use aboard more than 500 U.S. Navy vessels have made her especially skilled in handling complex military-related cases. Attorney Lucarelli is admitted to practice law in Connecticut, New York, and the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut (2001). When working with Attorney Lucarelli, clients can be assured they have a dedicated legal advocate on their side who is not only committed to achieving justice, but who understands the medical challenges of a mesothelioma diagnosis.



Meet Attorney Donni Halvorson

Attorney Donni Halvorson is a highly experienced and compassionate advocate for mesothelioma victims. A Louisiana native, she

graduated *magna cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans and Loyola University College of Law, where she ranked third in her class and earned numerous academic honors, including twelve American Jurisprudence Awards. Her early success reflects the dedication, intellect, and precision she brings to every case she handles.

With more than 1,500 asbestos claims litigated and numerous multi-million-dollar settlements secured, Attorney Halvorson has built a reputation for her tireless pursuit of justice against negligent corporations. She represents individuals and families affected by asbestos from military service, jobsites, household contact, or environmental exposures, providing both skilled legal representation and heartfelt guidance. Her persistence, determination, and empathy make her a trusted ally for her clients as they face a challenging diagnosis.



Meet Attorney Kyle Navin

Attorney Kyle Navin brings a combination of passion and experience to every client he represents. Graduating with honors

from Trinity College and earning his law degree from the University of Connecticut while working full-time, he has demonstrated both skill and perseverance. Since joining Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen in 2010, he has risen to partner in the firm's Connecticut office and is licensed to practice law in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Florida, and the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Attorney Navin is also accredited to assist veterans with disability claims.

Attorney Navin is a trusted advocate for mesothelioma victims and others seeking justice. He handles complex legal matters including asbestos trust claims, veteran disability benefits, medical lien resolution, and probate issues, bringing his legal insight and expertise to every case. Clients choose him for his proven record, professional recognition, and commitment to achieving results.



Meet Senior Paralegal Annette Charlevois

For over 20 years, Annette has worked as a paralegal at ELSM. She has personally helped over 1,000 mesothelioma victims

and their families, across the country, to receive compensation for injuries sustained from exposure to asbestos. Annette is dedicated to providing our clients, and their families, with the highest level of personal and professional care and compassion. Her vast knowledge of both the medical and legal aspects of asbestos litigation makes her one of the best resources available to help clients and their families determine their legal options. She is also equipped to provide useful medical information including new and emerging treatment options, clinical trials, and locations of experienced mesothelioma specialists and cancer centers throughout the United States.

Annette regularly represents Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen at educational conferences and symposiums related to asbestos and mesothelioma treatment and awareness, many of which are sponsored by the law firm of Early, Lucarelli, Sweeney & Meisenkothen. She has also lobbied in Washington, D.C. for additional government funding to support new mesothelioma treatment research. Annette has served on the executive committee of the Connecticut Bar Association's Paralegal Section.

Annette has particular expertise working with veterans who were exposed to asbestos while serving in the U.S. Navy and, as a result, have developed mesothelioma. She helps veterans determine whether they may be eligible to receive government benefits related to military service, in addition to compensation from the asbestos companies, and provides assistance with the application process.



Meet Senior Paralegal Kim McDonald

Kim McDonald is an experienced paralegal who has devoted her over 40-year career to those suffering from mesothelioma and

asbestos-related diseases. Kim has worked with many members of construction trade unions, automobile mechanics, and former military service members. She has worked on many U.S. Navy cases and is very knowledgeable about ship research and the application process for VA benefits. In Kim's four-decade career, she has worked diligently to assist thousands of injured workers and their families. She is experienced in every aspect of an asbestos litigation case from start to successful conclusion.

With her many years of experience and her compassionate and caring nature, Kim provides clients and their families with guidance on medical and legal aspects of asbestos litigation. She gives special attention to each case she works on. She provides helpful information including current and developing medical treatments, clinical trials, and locations of treatment centers and specialists across the country. Kim is dedicated to assisting clients in standing up for their rights and offers support and guidance throughout the legal process.

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