

Mesothelioma Information – Diagnosis, Treatments, Resources

What is Mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is an aggressive form of cancer that originates in specialized tissue called the mesothelium: the outer lining of the chest, abdomen, and heart cavities. This malignant disease is known to be caused by exposure to airborne asbestos fibers. There are several forms of malignant mesothelioma, named after the part of the body from which they originate.

Diagnosing Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma diagnosis can present difficult and complex problems. Though asbestos exposure is often a cause of the disease, some victims of the disease were never aware they were exposed. Further, symptoms of mesothelioma appear similar to those of other diseases. Learn more about the process of

Mesothelioma Treatments

For patients diagnosed with mesothelioma, three traditional treatment options are available: surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. Doctors often utilize a combination of these traditional treatment methods to maximize their effectiveness. In addition to traditional treatments, many experimental treatments are being researched in clinical trials across the nation.

Family Resources

Most people who are diagnosed with mesothelioma suffer from a very advanced form of the disease and die within a year of the diagnosis. At this point, care for the terminally ill patients shifts from treatment to pain management and easing the process of dying.

What do I do now?

Mesothelioma diagnosis is a life-changing event with serious health and legal implications. The first thing on one's mind when battling a life-threatening illness may not be a lawsuit, but the cold truth is that mesothelioma patients have a serious disease

that, in most cases, could have been prevented. Companies that produced asbestos products, or whose employees regularly worked around asbestos, were often aware of the risks their employees were unknowingly taking every day. These negligent actions have led to the proliferation of thousands of cases of asbestos disease including asbestosis and mesothelioma.

Seeking legal assistance from a qualified asbestos attorney may help you get the compensation you need for yourself and your family. An experienced attorney with an understanding of the asbestos industry can help hold negligent parties responsible to recover financial damages. Please fill out the form below or [click here](#) to contact a mesothelioma attorney.

What is Mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma

Malignant mesothelioma is a rare and debilitating form of cancer caused by chronic exposure to asbestos. When asbestos particles are inhaled or swallowed, they bypass the body's natural defense systems, lodging themselves in the lungs and abdomen. The sharp, microscopic asbestos fibers eventually make their way to the outer edge of the chest and abdominal cavities and into a membrane called the mesothelium.

The mesothelium, a double-layered protective membrane, surrounds all the organs of the human body and is vital to their proper function. The mesothelium keeps the organs in place while simultaneously lubricating them, allowing them to flex and move with breathing and other movement.

Asbestos fibers cause lesions and scarring on the mesothelium, ultimately leading to the formation of tumors. The damaged cells secrete large amounts of a clear fluid that presses on the lungs and other organs, causing severe discomfort. In addition to these fluid secretions, aggressive tumor growth in later stages can lead to the rapid spread of cancer throughout the chest and abdomen, as well as cardiac or respiratory failure. Mesothelioma progresses extremely slowly. The cancer may take anywhere from 25 to 50 years to show symptoms. Often, when a victim is diagnosed with mesothelioma, the disease has already reached an advanced stage and permanent damage has already occurred.

There are two types of mesothelioma: pleural and peritoneal. Pleural mesothelioma, the most common form of the cancer, affects the pleura, the protective membrane encasing the lungs. Peritoneal mesothelioma accounts for about 10 percent of mesothelioma cases but is equally deadly. The peritoneum is the membrane surrounding the abdomen. Although the path of the asbestos fibers to the abdomen is still not definitively known, most medical professionals believe the asbestos particles enter the abdomen through the mouth before ultimately affecting the peritoneum.

Mesothelioma Symptoms

Mesothelioma is difficult to diagnose because the symptoms associated with this disease closely resemble more common chest and lung diseases. Symptoms may include:

- Persistent Coughing
- Coughing Blood
- Shortness of Breath
- Chest and Abdomen Pain
- Fatigue
- Weight Loss
- Nausea
- Headaches

Mesothelioma severely weakens the immune system, making those afflicted with the disease more vulnerable to secondary diseases like pneumonia and the flu. There are numerous tests available to help medical professionals diagnose mesothelioma; however, such diagnosis is still a difficult and long process.

Stages of Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma progression is divided into four stages. These stages are not uniform among medical professionals, who may either classify the cancer according to different criteria or disagree on the specific characteristics of each stage. Listed below are some of the generally accepted criteria for each stage.

- Stage 1: Mesothelioma is localized - detected in the pleura of one of the two lungs, but not both. May also affect the pericardium (lining of heart)
- Stage 2: Cancer spreads from lung to the lymph nodes
- Stage 3: Tumor spreads to peritoneal, chest wall, heart, ribs or other chest organs on the same side as the originally afflicted lung
- Stage 4: Cancer has metastasized, which means it has spread throughout the rest of the body through the blood stream.

Currently, there is no known cure for mesothelioma. In the United States, 2,000 to 3,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. Because the disease has an extremely long incubation period, up to 50 years in some instances, the cancer is usually not detected until the very advanced stages. Approximately 75% of victims die within a year of being diagnosed. However, there are several treatment options doctors may use to contain the cancer and prolong the victim's life. The most common treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. Doctors are constantly working on new experimental treatments as well.

Mesothelioma is a devastating and lethal disease made even more disturbing by the fact that many companies deliberately covered up information known about the ill effects of asbestos. Mining companies had definitive proof of the lethal effects of airborne asbestos particles before asbestos reached the peak of its popularity. Not wanting to lose a cheap and extensively utilized additive, officials in some companies falsified reports and even forced company doctors to purposely misdiagnose mesothelioma sufferers with lung or chest cancer.

Because of the irresponsible actions of the asbestos industry, many mesothelioma victims are entitled to compensation from these companies. If you or a loved one suffer from mesothelioma, you need a competent and experienced lawyer who will aggressively represent your interests. Our compassionate lawyers will work tirelessly on behalf of you and your family to secure compensation for pain, suffering, medical expenses, and other damages. Contact a qualified mesothelioma attorney today.

Asbestos

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral first used by the Greeks and Romans in clothes and building materials. The American asbestos industry started to take off after World War II and reached its peak in the 1970s when asbestos was used in more than 4,000 different products. The extreme popularity of asbestos was due to its versatility and relatively inexpensive manufacturing costs.

Asbestos is composed of long, thin fibers that naturally occur in the form of a compressed, solid mass. There are six different types of asbestos, which are sorted into two separate categories. The first category, amphibole, includes types of asbestos characterized by long straight fibers. Five of the six types of asbestos fall under this category: amosite, crocidolite, actinolite, anthophyllite, tremolite. Serpentine, the second category, includes chrysotile, a type of asbestos characterized by curly fiber structure. Only three types of asbestos are found in the United States: chrysotile, amosite, and crocidolite.

Asbestosis

Asbestosis, also known as diffuse pulmonary fibrosis, is an extremely debilitating and potentially fatal disease caused by asbestos exposure. Unlike mesothelioma, asbestosis usually develops when a person is exposed to high levels of asbestos over a prolonged period of time. When asbestos is inhaled into the lungs, the fibers eventually culminate in the alveoli, which are the tiny sacs in the lungs where oxygen and carbon dioxide are exchanged between the lungs and bloodstream. Fibrous scar tissue begins to build up in the lungs, eventually becoming so severe that the lungs cannot supply the body with

sufficient oxygen. Although asbestosis is not a cancer, it can be just as deadly as mesothelioma. The excess scar tissue may lead to heart failure or severe respiratory problems and even death.

Asbestosis is difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are not unique to the disease. In fact, asbestosis symptoms are often associated with very common health problems like obesity and emphysema. The most common symptoms of asbestosis are chest pain, shortness of breath, dry cough, and coughing spasms. Asbestosis subsequently weakens the body's immune system, making the sufferer more susceptible to contracting secondary diseases such as pneumonia.

There is no known cure for asbestosis. As the disease progresses, the network of scar tissue continues to accumulate in the lungs and become more complex, which makes early detection essential to effective treatment of the disease. Physicians treating a patient with asbestos focus primarily on preventative measures and relief of immediate symptoms. Patients are advised to immediately eliminate exposure to asbestos, quit smoking, and avoid large crowds where they could contract secondary diseases. The coughing and shortness of breath are often treated with supplemental oxygen, humidifiers, or breathing therapies.

For more information about asbestosis, mesothelioma and your legal rights, please don't hesitate to contact a qualified asbestos attorney today.

Asbestos Products

Manufacturers used asbestos because it is cheap, abundant, extremely versatile, chemically inert, and highly impervious to heat. Asbestos is broken down into its composition fibers once it is retrieved from the earth and then added to products to give them strength, durability, and heat resistance. Asbestos is an ideal additive for many products because it has what is referred to as tensile strength; that is, it is flexible but strong without adding a significant amount of weight. Asbestos is also one of the few minerals that can be woven. It was often woven into insulators that were too brittle to be used alone. Today, asbestos is tightly regulated and only used in a few products in an extremely controlled manner. During its peak, however, asbestos was used in some very common products including:

- Adhesives
- Brake Pads
- Cement
- Chalkboards
- Duct Installation
- Electrical Cloth

- Electrical Ducts
- Felt
- Fireproofing Materials
- Floor Tile
- Gaskets
- Heating Ducts
- Installation
- Ironing Board Covers
- Paint
- Paper
- Pipe Covering
- Plaster
- Putty
- Rope
- Tape
- Wires
- Yarn

In its natural, solid form, asbestos is relatively harmless. When cut, crushed, drilled or disturbed in any other way, asbestos fibers become airborne and are extremely toxic. The sharp, microscopic fibers are inhaled through the lungs and eventually pass on to the edges of the lung where they are absorbed into the pleura, the vital membrane that surrounds, protects, and lubricates the lungs. The jagged fibers cause lesions and scarring in the lungs in the form of a non-cancerous, but often fatal disease called asbestosis. If asbestos fibers move into the pleural mesothelium surrounding the lungs, irritation from the fibers can result in the onset of malignant mesothelioma. The cancer eventually metastasizes, spreading to distant organs through the bloodstream.

Pleural Mesothelioma

Pleural mesothelioma is the most common form of mesothelioma, comprising roughly three-quarters of all mesothelioma cases. It is much more common than peritoneal mesothelioma, which affects the abdomen. Pleural mesothelioma affects the pleura, a sheet-like, double-layered lining attached to the inside of the chest wall and the outside of the lungs. The space between the two layers is lubricated with a fluid that circulates within the lining. This allows smooth movement of the lungs and other organs in the chest during breathing and general movement.

When microscopic asbestos fibers enter the lungs through inhalation, some can eventually become embedded in the pleural mesothelium. In some people, the asbestos fibers severely irritate the mesothelial tissue. Eventually, cancerous tumors and nodules develop in the chest near or on the pleura. Over time, the layers of the pleura, which are

typically very thin, can begin to thicken. Pleural effusion, or the accumulation of fluid between the chest wall and the lungs, almost always develops in those with pleural mesothelioma. Pain and discomfort are typically associated with pleural effusion. Severe pain may be a sign that malignant tumors have spread into the chest wall, lungs, and surrounding areas.

Symptoms of Pleural Mesothelioma

Symptoms of all forms of mesothelioma typically do not develop until the disease has reached relatively advanced stages. The most common symptoms of pleural mesothelioma are lower-back aches, back and side-chest pain, and difficulty breathing (dyspnea).

Other symptoms include:

- Shortness of breath
- Trouble swallowing
- Cough
- Hoarseness
- Fever
- Sweating
- Fatigue
- Weight loss
- Swelling of the face and arms

Unfortunately, many of the symptoms of pleural mesothelioma are similar to those of other diseases, making diagnosis of this rare disease that much more difficult. If you or a loved one is experiencing any of the above symptoms - especially if there is a known history of asbestos exposure - it is important to see a physician as soon as possible. Early diagnosis is one of the most important factors in battling mesothelioma.

Peritoneal Mesothelioma

Peritoneal mesothelioma, like pleural mesothelioma, is also caused by exposure to asbestos in most cases. Peritoneal mesothelioma, however, differs in that it originates in the abdomen instead of the chest. Accounting for about 20 percent of all mesothelioma cases, this form of disease affects the peritoneum—the mesothelium that surrounds the organs of the abdomen.

There are a number of theories on how asbestos fibers make their way deep into the abdomen to cause malignant mesothelioma to develop. Some suggest that asbestos fibers, broken into smaller, sharper fibers within the lungs, eventually enter the blood stream and become lodged in the peritoneum. Another theory is that asbestos is inadvertently ingested when people consume foods and beverages contaminated by the small fibers from clothing, hair, and general exposure from asbestos hanging in the air. Likely, the answer is that many different means of ingestion are responsible, but it is known that asbestos is the only proven cause of peritoneal mesothelioma.

Symptoms of Peritoneal Mesothelioma

Less is reported about peritoneal mesothelioma in terms of exactly what goes on in the body as this form of the disease progresses. But it is similar to the pleural form in that peritoneal mesothelioma has a very long latency period (between 25 and 40 years), and is usually discovered late in its progression. Patients will typically experience fluid build-up in the abdomen and accompanying swelling and discomfort. Severe pain can often be a sign of tumor growth.

Additional symptoms of peritoneal mesothelioma include:

- Stomach Pain
- Nausea
- Weight Loss
- Vomiting
- Swollen Feet
- Impaired Bowel Function

If you or a loved one is experiencing any of the above symptoms - especially if there is a known history of asbestos exposure - it is important to see a physician as soon as possible. Early diagnosis is one of the most important factors in battling mesothelioma.

Mesothelioma Diagnosis

Diagnosis of any form of mesothelioma is difficult. Since one need not be exposed to large amounts of asbestos to develop the disease decades later, many don't know they were ever at risk. Even if one is aware of their own history of asbestos exposure and the dangers involved, the long latency period of mesothelioma, coupled with the fact that most symptoms of the disease are similar to those of other diseases, make a positive diagnosis difficult.

Despite the difficulties of diagnosis and the rarity of mesothelioma, accurately detecting the disease is possible through a variety of tests.

If you have experienced any of the symptoms of peritoneal or pleural mesothelioma, it is important to see a doctor as soon as possible to begin preliminary testing and examinations.

Typically your doctor will first determine abnormalities by performing a physical examination, examining medical history, and learning if you have a history of asbestos exposure. It's important to note that a doctor may not initially suspect mesothelioma, as it is a very rare disease. If you have a history of potential asbestos exposure, it is helpful to inform your physician.

The first step in mesothelioma diagnosis will involve your doctor listening to your breathing to determine if there are any abnormalities. He or she will also look for any swelling or lumps on the chest or stomach area. Further testing will be performed if it is determined that you are experiencing breathing difficulties, shortness of breath, or chest pain.

Testing for Mesothelioma Diagnosis

Doctors can easily misdiagnose mesothelioma due to the similarity of mesothelioma symptoms to those of other ailments. Initially, chest problems and a severe cough from pleural mesothelioma may be diagnosed as pneumonia or lung cancer.

Various tests are used to determine whether you have pneumonia, lung cancer, asbestosis, mesothelioma, or something else. Doctors first perform imaging tests like X-rays to detect mesothelioma. Then they use tissue samples to confirm its presence. The following tests are used to detect mesothelioma:

Chest X-ray: This method reveals abnormal fluid and thickening of protective tissue outside the lungs.

Computed Tomograph: The CT scan is an X-ray that produces a more detailed and accurate image of the affected area. Traditional X-ray machines snap one photo at one angle. The CT camera rotates around patients, capturing all angles. Then a computer combines all photos and renders them into a single 3D-like image. This ensures a thorough scan, allowing doctors to make an initial mesothelioma diagnosis and determine how far it has spread.

Positron Emission Tomography: In the PET scan, a radioactive sugar solution is injected into the bloodstream. Cancer cells consume sugar faster than normal cells. As a result, the cancer tissue will glow brighter than healthy tissue in PET scan results. This test can determine if thickening tissue is cancer or scar tissue. It also determines if cancer is spreading.

Magnetic resonance imaging: The MRI scan shoots radio waves at the body. The body absorbs and then releases the energy. A computer captures these released waves. Then it translates them into a 3D-like image, similar to the CT scan.

Fluid sample: Fluid is tapped from either the belly or the chest with a syringe. A pathologist then tests the fluid for cancer.

Tissue sample procedures: Doctors make a tiny incision in the chest or stomach. Then they insert a telescope-type device with a video camera. This enables doctors to see the tumor and remove a tissue sample. This tissue is then tested for cancer.

Further testing may be performed to see if mesothelioma has spread to other parts of the body such as the heart and lymphatic system.

Mesothelioma Treatments

Currently, there is no cure for malignant mesothelioma. For patients diagnosed with this aggressive disease, however, three traditional treatment options are available: surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. Doctors often utilize a combination of these traditional treatment methods to maximize their effectiveness; however, the treatments that are suggested vary from patient to patient due to a number of factors. For example, the stage at which the cancer was detected and the cancer's location in the body effect which treatment options will be recommended. Also, the patient's physical health, age, and personal preferences are considered when making treatment decisions.

Surgery

Various surgical procedures may be performed in an attempt to remove the cancerous cells and damaged tissues.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy, using any number of potent drugs, is also used in an effort to rid the body of cancerous cells.

Radiation

Radiation therapy, using high energy x-rays, may also be used in order to destroy cancer cells in the body.

Experimental Treatments

In addition to these traditional treatment options, several experimental treatment options are available to patients diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma. Also, there are a number of clinical trials currently being conducted throughout the United States. Patients who have not responded to established therapies might be interested in learning more about these less conventional options.

Pain Management

Several palliative therapies are available to assist mesothelioma patients with pain management.

Surgical Treatment Options

Surgery is one of the most common forms of treatment for malignant mesothelioma. Before this invasive therapy can be considered, however, the patient's overall health must be carefully evaluated. If the patient is a good candidate for surgery, his or her physician may suggest one of the following procedures based on the type of mesothelioma, the location and size of the cancerous cells, and other factors.

Pleurectomy

This is one of several surgical options for individuals diagnosed with pleural mesothelioma. A pleurectomy is a complex procedure to remove parts of the membrane lining the lung.

Pneumonectomy

A pneumonectomy is a more aggressive surgery that is also used to treat pleural mesothelioma. In this procedure, surgery is performed to remove the diseased lung.

Extrapleural pneumonectomy

An extrapleural pneumonectomy is another option for malignant mesothelioma patients. Similar to a traditional pneumonectomy, this procedure is used to remove a lung, but areas of the diaphragm and the lining around the heart are removed as well.

Peritonectomy

For patients diagnosed with peritoneal mesothelioma, a peritonectomy is the only surgical option. This procedure is performed to remove the membrane lining the abdomen, tumors on the abdominal wall, or tumors on other digestive organs.

Risks

Even for patients who are good candidates for surgery, these treatments carry significant risks. They are complex procedures that only a few surgeons are able to perform. Patients and their families should be well aware of the potential benefits and the dangers associated with each of the surgeries before making a decision about how to proceed with treatment.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is the use of drugs for treating cancer. By interfering with the cancer cells' ability to divide and reproduce, the drugs are able to destroy them. There are more than 50 different drugs used in the treatment of cancer, a handful of which have been helpful in treating mesothelioma patients. Often, doctors recommended a combination of these drugs to increase their effectiveness at destroying cancerous cells.

For the treatment of mesothelioma and other cancers, systematic chemotherapy is used. This means that the drugs enter the patient's bloodstream and then circulate throughout his or her entire body. While this ensures that the drugs are able to reach cancer cells all over the body, it also means these highly potent drugs can affect a person's normal cells and tissues as well. This concern is always present during chemotherapy treatment, so doctors must be sure to carefully select the combination and dosages of the drugs that will be used to treat each patient based on their individual circumstances.

Side Effects

The high toxicity of the drugs used in chemotherapy can cause a number of side effects, the type and severity of which varies from patient to patient and from drug to drug. However, the most commonly experienced side effects of chemotherapy drugs include: nausea, hair loss, loss of appetite, oral sores, and physical fatigue. In addition, fertility may be temporarily affected, and the number of cells developed by the body's bone marrow may be reduced, making it harder to recover from illness or injury. Fortunately, most side effects gradually disappear after the completion of chemotherapy.

Alimta

Alimta (pemetrexed) was the first chemotherapy drug approved by the FDA specifically for the treatment of mesothelioma. In 2002, the drug's manufacturer, Eli Lilly Company, conducted the largest clinical trial in the United States for mesothelioma treatment. When combined with the drug cisplatin, Alimta shrank mesothelioma tumors in 41 % of patients. Additionally, patients who received a combination of both drugs showed an increase in survival time by about 30% over cisplatin alone. Results of the study were so promising that the FDA approved the drug under an "expanded access" program while further studies were conducted. After more testing, Alimta received full FDA approval in 2004.

Radiation Therapy

Radiation therapy uses high energy x-rays to kill or shrink cancerous cells. When used in combination with the other traditional mesothelioma treatments, radiation therapy has been effective in increasing survival rates for malignant mesothelioma patients.

However, because radiation therapy will destroy normal cells as well as abnormal cells, doctors must carefully plan how to carry out this type of treatment.

Radiation therapy can be administered in one of two ways:

- External radiation refers to radiation that comes from a machine outside the body

- Internal radiation is delivered by inserting radioisotopes into the body at the location of the cancerous cells.

Side Effects

Side effects from radiation therapy vary from patient to patient. The most common adverse responses to the treatment include: fatigue, skin reactions, shortness of breath, and low blood count levels. These issues should be discussed with your doctor before radiation therapy begins.

Experimental Treatments

Experimental therapies being studied and used in the treatment of various forms of cancer can also be useful for patients with malignant mesothelioma. These treatments may be valuable for patients who have not responded to traditional therapies or they may be used along with traditional treatments to increase the overall effectiveness of the healthcare plan. The experimental treatments that have had the most success so far include: gene therapy, photodynamic therapy, and immunotherapy. Of course, many more treatment methods are currently being studied in various clinical trials throughout the world.

Gene Therapy

Clinical trials for gene therapy are currently underway. As a mesothelioma treatment, this type of therapy attempts to correct the defective genes that make it possible for a cancerous tumor to develop.

Photodynamic Therapy

This new mesothelioma treatment is based on the knowledge that chemicals called photosensitizing agents are capable of killing one-celled organisms (such as cancer) when exposed to light at a particular wavelength.

Several days prior to the surgery, the patient is injected with the photosensitizing drug. Then, during the surgical procedure, a special light is used to destroy as much of the cancer as possible. This treatment is being studied mostly with regard to pleural mesothelioma that is detected at an early stage.

Immunotherapy

Immunotherapy uses substances called biological response modifiers to alter the interaction between the body's own immune system and cancer. The biological response modifiers work in several different ways. They may be used to enhance the immune system's natural ability to fight cancer cell growth, to make cancer cells more susceptible to destruction by the immune system, to prevent a cancer cell from spreading to other locations, or for similar purposes.

Pain Management

There are several palliative therapy options available to individuals suffering from malignant mesothelioma. The goal of these treatments is not to cure patients of cancer, but to reduce their suffering. Each of the three traditional treatment methods - surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy - can also be used for the purpose of pain relief. For example, surgical procedures like thoracentesis and pleurectomies can help reduce the amount of fluid in the chest, easing the pain that mesothelioma patients may suffer. Similarly, if chemotherapy or radiation therapy is used to help reduce tumor size, the patient may also experience a decrease in the amount of discomfort he or she is experiencing.

In addition, drug therapy is often used to help relieve pain for individuals with mesothelioma. This includes the use of opioids, non-opioids, and adjuvant analgesics. Relaxation therapy, biofeedback, physical therapy, and other treatments may also be suggested by the patient's physician to help with the pain and discomfort of malignant mesothelioma.

Family Resources

Once mesothelioma metastasizes and spreads to distant organs, a cure is not possible. Most people who are diagnosed with mesothelioma suffer from a very advanced form of the disease and die within a year of the diagnosis. At this point, care for the terminally ill patients shifts from treatment to pain management and easing the process of dying. For this purpose, families of mesothelioma victims should consider outside aid and care.

Hospice

Hospice organizations operate under the principle of palliative care. Palliative care is an approach to care that aims to improve the quality of life of a terminally ill patient by preventing and relieving symptoms and suffering. Every individual in the last stage of life deserves a dignified, pain-free death. With hospice care, this is possible.

Hospice care occurs primarily in the home, although it can also take place in a hospital, nursing home, hospice facility, or another long-term care facility. The National Hospice Foundation, an organization promoting compassionate assistance for the terminally ill for more than 25 years, conducted a survey that found over 80 percent of Americans would prefer to die at home. With hospice care, 75 percent of patients pass on in the comfort of their home, in a familiar environment surrounded by loved ones.

Hospice care focuses on alleviating pain and symptoms of the disease and helping the patients and their families come to terms with the future. A team of doctors, nurses, social workers, and counselors or clergy members assists a family member, who acts as the primary caregiver, with the care of the patient. This team constantly evaluates the

changing needs of the patient and adjusts medications and care accordingly. Regular home visits and around-the-clock care are also features of this compassionate approach to nursing.

Hospice care relies heavily on a team of trained and dedicated volunteers who are the crux of effective hospice care. These are the individuals who relieve the primary caregivers, help with household chores, and bathe and dress the patients. Most importantly, the volunteers provide an empathetic ear and are always willing to listen to the patient, the caregiver, and his or her family.

Easing the passing of loved ones is a primary concern of families, but many individuals worry about how they will afford comprehensive hospice care. Fortunately, almost anyone can afford quality hospice care. Of all the people who receive hospice care each year, 80 percent are over the age of 65. This means they are eligible for the Medicare Hospice Benefit, which covers all care with practically no out-of-pocket expenses. Most private health plans and Medicaid programs also cover almost all costs involved in hospice care.

Dealing with the terminal illness of a loved one is an extremely stressful and disheartening experience. This period is even more difficult when the onset of terminal symptoms occurs suddenly and unexpectedly, as with most mesothelioma cases. Hospice care allows a patient's family to maintain the responsibilities of their normal lives while giving them the comfort of knowing their loved one is being looked after by a team of trained, compassionate caregivers.

Support Groups

Mesothelioma support groups are also a valuable resource available to those coping with the devastating effects of this terminal illness. Through support group meetings and discussions, families and patients become aware of the reality of mesothelioma. The disease loses its capacity to intimidate and frighten its victims and their families because they learn what to expect.

More importantly, however, a gathering of people sharing similar experiences lets a person know that he or she is not alone. Mesothelioma drastically changes people's lives in a very short period of time and often without warning. Shock, denial, and anger are common initial reactions that a person must move beyond in order to come to terms with the disease and prepare for the future. It is imperative that victims and their families have confidants that can relate to their experiences and provide comfort and advice in their time of need. Support groups afford victims and families some measure of peace and stability during a period of extreme chaos and confusion.

If you or a loved one needs the support of a mesothelioma cancer group, ask your physician for references or contact the American Cancer Society.

Legal Aid

Mesothelioma can hit a victim and his or her family quick and hard. It is important that victims receive immediate and competent medical care once diagnosed. However, the affected family is often unprepared for such a blow and unable to support the resulting medical expenses.

Since the only known cause of mesothelioma is repeated asbestos exposure, manufactures utilizing asbestos can be held liable for damages and medical expenses associated with the disease.

An aggressive attorney representing your interests can work to ensure that the companies responsible for you or your loved one's illness are held financially accountable. If you or a loved one is in need of an attorney who is not only experienced and competent but also compassionate, contact one of our qualified asbestos attorneys today. We will secure the maximum financial compensation possible and help relieve your financial burden during this difficult period.

Occupations At High Risk of Asbestos Exposure

Asbestos exposure is the only known risk factor for developing mesothelioma. The majority of individuals with this rare condition have been employed at jobs where they inhaled asbestos fibers through the production and use of this material. Although the danger of contracting mesothelioma is dependent upon the measure and duration of exposure, even low amounts of asbestos exposure can result in mesothelioma.

Family members of those exposed to asbestos are also at risk for mesothelioma and related conditions. Asbestos fibers can be inhaled after being transported home on the clothes, skin, and hair of workers. Workers at risk of asbestos exposure include factory workers, ship builders, construction workers, brake repair workers, insulation manufacturers and installers, and asbestos miners. Other occupations that pose a risk of asbestos exposure can be found below.

However, people with certain occupations are considered at higher risk for developing mesothelioma than others:

- Construction Workers
- Janitors
- Plumbers
- Electricians

- Firefighters
- Mechanics
- Insulator Installers
- Telephone Repair Workers
- Maintenance Personnel

Asbestos was so prevalent in the United States at one point that almost everyone has had some contact with asbestos. However, most mesothelioma victims are exposed to asbestos over a prolonged period of time. This level of exposure does not have to be very high. Medical professionals now know many victims developed mesothelioma through secondary exposure, known as paraoccupational asbestos exposure. This means that a person who had regular contact with an asbestos worker can be exposed to the lethal fibers by inhaling the residual particles stuck to the asbestos worker's clothing. In other words, the child or spouse of an asbestos worker is also at heightened risk for mesothelioma.

If you have been diagnosed with mesothelioma, contact a mesothelioma attorney at our firm today. We can review your case and discuss your legal options.

Time Limits

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with mesothelioma, a qualified attorney can help you sort out your legal options. Mesothelioma lawsuits filed on behalf of the victim can hold manufacturers and employers accountable for negligently providing dangerous products and working conditions to employees. However, it is important to file your mesothelioma case as soon as possible to ensure that you are within the statute of limitations for your state.

A statute of limitations refers to a set amount of time in which a legal claim must be filed in order to garner a positive settlement or verdict. The statutes of limitations vary by state, but generally the suit must be filed within two years of being diagnosed with mesothelioma. In cases of wrongful death, the claim typically must be filed within two years of the victim's passing. Because the statutes of limitations are different in each state, it is imperative that you talk to an attorney knowledgeable in this area of litigation for legal assistance.

Finding a Lawyer

Obtaining the legal representation of an attorney experienced in asbestos law and litigation can significantly increase the victim's chances of recovering a favorable settlement or verdict. A mesothelioma lawyer can help you determine when and how you were exposed to asbestos and which asbestos companies to name in your lawsuit. Once it is proven that the mesothelioma victim was exposed to asbestos, the case becomes more difficult to defend, leading the majority of mesothelioma lawsuits to end in settlements.

At Nemeroff Law Firm, our mesothelioma attorneys are dedicated to providing our clients with personalized and expert legal representation. We understand the difficulties the victims of mesothelioma must endure and we are here to make things easier for you. Our lawyers can handle all the legal aspects involved in the case so you can focus on the health and well being of your family. Many mesothelioma victims are entitled to compensation because of the negligence of the asbestos companies. Contact our practice for a case evaluation so our attorneys can determine if you are eligible for damages.

Who is to Blame?

There are a number of companies involved in the production, use, and distribution of asbestos containing materials. The list provided below includes companies that manufacture asbestos products and those affected by asbestos litigation. Awareness of the major companies in this industry can aid mesothelioma victims in determining where asbestos exposure may have taken place.

The initial groundbreaking asbestos litigation first held the following asbestos companies accountable for their negligent actions:

- Owens Corning
- Pittsburgh Corning
- GAF / Ruberoid
- Carey / Celotex / Rapid American
- Babcock & Wilson

Listed below are other asbestos related companies that may be responsible for asbestos exposure:

- Armstrong World Industries
- Harbison Walker (Halliburton)
- W.R. Grace
- Federal Mogul
- General Refractories
- North American Refractories Company (NARCO)
- James Manville
- HK Porter
- Unarco (UNR)
- Eagle Picher
- Kelly Moore Paint
- Union Carbide Corporation
- Westinghouse Boiler (Viacom)
- Georgia Pacific
- Bondex
- Owens Illinois
- Foster Wheeler
- Garlock

- General Electric (GE)
- Weil Mclain

The corporations named above do not represent a comprehensive list of asbestos companies responsible for exposing consumers to their dangerous product. If you have been diagnosed with mesothelioma, contact a qualified attorney at our firm for legal assistance. The highly experienced attorneys at Nemeroff Law Firm can help mesothelioma victims determine the source of their asbestos exposure so they can file a lawsuit and seek compensation.

What the companies didn't tell you

There is evidence that the manufacturers of asbestos knew about the risk this dangerous substance posed to workers long before they did anything to ensure safe working conditions. By the 1930s, asbestos companies were aware that inhalation of asbestos fibers increased the risk of developing serious health problems. However, documentation has revealed that the manufacturers of asbestos concealed its dangers to consumers in order to maintain the sales of their products.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, medical and scientific journals began to establish an association between asbestos exposure and mesothelioma. Researchers found that individuals exposed to asbestos fibers developed mesothelioma at a higher rate than individuals who were not exposed. As these findings were revealed and the number of mesothelioma cases grew, victims and attorneys began to hold asbestos companies responsible for their negligent actions through asbestos litigation.

Because asbestos companies knew their products were hazardous to their employees' health, mesothelioma cases in which the plaintiff can prove asbestos exposure can result in significant monetary recompense. Hiring an experienced mesothelioma attorney can greatly increase your chances of being awarded compensation. Contact Nemeroff Law Firm today for a review of your case.

Mesothelioma Questions and Answers

What is mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is an aggressive form of cancer that affects the lining of the chest and abdominal cavities. Mesothelioma is known to be caused by asbestos exposure and typically takes between 25 and 40 years to show symptoms. Mesothelioma patients are usually given a poor prognosis. Diagnosis of the disease typically comes late in its progression. Mesothelioma sufferers and their families have filed many lawsuits since the early 1980's against employers who exposed their workers to asbestos on the job. Many legal battles continue even as legislation is being drafted to change the face of asbestos litigation forever. Learn more about mesothelioma here.

What causes mesothelioma?

The biggest risk factor for mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos fibers. Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used in industrial applications for decades because of its fibrous nature and its ability to be woven into many different materials to add strength, flexibility, and durability. Undisturbed, asbestos poses a minimal health risk to individuals. Unfortunately asbestos is easily broken into small, sharp fibers that become airborne when asbestos products are cut, sanded, broken, removed or otherwise disturbed. Asbestos fibers that are inhaled or ingested can cause problems in the lungs and mesothelium, which is a layer of tissue that lines the chest and abdomen. When asbestos fibers get stuck in the mesothelium on the outside of the lungs or the abdomen, they cause irritation that, over a long period of time, can lead to fluid build-up and tumors that characterize mesothelioma. Learn more about asbestos [here](#).

What is the mesothelium?

The mesothelium is a double-layered, sheath-like lining that surrounds the cavities of the chest, abdomen, and heart. The mesothelium provides support and lubrication for the various organs of the body to move, expand, and contract while keeping them in place. The two layers of the mesothelium are very thin. Between them is a fluid that provides the lubrication properties of the tissue. Asbestos fibers that become lodged in the mesothelium can irritate mesothelial cells and lead to the formation of cancer. In many cases the mesothelium, or a portion of the affected tissue, is removed in mesothelioma patients.

What are the different types of mesothelioma?

There are three types of malignant mesothelioma cancer. There are other forms of mesothelioma that are benign, but they are usually much easier to cure and are not caused by exposure to asbestos.

The three forms of mesothelioma that are caused by asbestos are: pleural mesothelioma, peritoneal mesothelioma, and pericardial mesothelioma. Pleural mesothelioma affects the mesothelium surrounding the chest and lungs. It is the most common form of the disease. Peritoneal mesothelioma is the second most common form of mesothelioma and it originates in the mesothelium of the abdomen. Pericardial mesothelioma is extremely rare and affects the membrane surrounding the heart cavity.

Can I get mesothelioma if I have not been exposed to asbestos?

There is no conclusive evidence to support the existence of causes other than asbestos that, acting alone, lead to mesothelioma. There is some speculation that mesothelioma may be more prevalent in those exposed to asbestos who are also genetically predisposed to the disease. Research has also suggested that those with a disease called Simian virus 40, or SV40, are more susceptible to mesothelioma. However, even those with SV40 who have developed mesothelioma have usually been exposed to asbestos as well. It is thought that SV40 may increase the chances of developing the disease when an infected individual is exposed to asbestos. It should also be noted that many don't realize they have been exposed to asbestos. This is usually the case when a person lives with someone

who works with the substance brings the microscopic fibers into the home on their clothes, hair, skin, etc. Since there need not be high levels of asbestos exposure for mesothelioma to develop, constant exposure of this type can lead to mesothelioma over time.

Am I at risk?

If you have had a history of exposure to asbestos, you may be at risk of developing mesothelioma. Typically, mesothelioma patients have been exposed to large amounts of the fibers, but this is not always the case. If you have experienced any of the symptoms of mesothelioma, you should seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Doctor Q&A

Are there any new treatments available for mesothelioma?

In addition to the standard mesothelioma treatments, one new drug has been approved by the FDA for treatment of the disease. Alimta (pemetrexed) in combination with cisplatin, a powerful chemotherapy drug, is the first licensed treatment for mesothelioma. The combination of cisplatin and Alimta has been the most effective chemotherapy drug used to shrink mesothelioma tumors. The drug was approved in February 2004. There are clinical trials being conducted to research the effectiveness of other experimental mesothelioma treatments as well.

How is mesothelioma diagnosed?

Mesothelioma is a very difficult disease to diagnose. The symptoms of both pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma (the most common forms of the disease) are similar to those of other less serious diseases. There are a number of tests doctors can use to diagnose mesothelioma. Most doctors will initially perform a physical examination, breathing tests, research medical history, and ask if you have a history of asbestos exposure. If abnormalities are found, more testing will be performed to determine if scarring, thickening, excess fluid, tumors, or cancer are present.

How can I be sure my doctor is qualified to treat my illness?

The best way to learn if your physician is able to deal with mesothelioma cases is to ask. If your doctor is affiliated with an institution or cancer center that treats mesothelioma patients, they can refer you to a specialist. Even if your doctor is not associated with a cancer center, they will be able to refer you to the closest qualified center in your area. Mesothelioma is a rare disease so it is possible that your physician does not have a large amount of experience with the disease. You may also want to find out if your insurance company will cover a second opinion if you would like one.

Is there a cure for mesothelioma?

There is no cure for mesothelioma at present. There are, however, many treatments that can help prolong life and increase quality of life after diagnosis. There are many options

available depending on the circumstances of each mesothelioma patient. It is important to not give up hope and seek as much help as possible.

Attorney Q&A

What are my legal options?

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with mesothelioma, it is important that you contact an attorney to find out if you have a viable case against a previous employer or company responsible for asbestos exposure. Even if you have lost a loved one to mesothelioma, you may still have an opportunity to secure compensation for your family on behalf of the deceased. Every case varies, so it is important to discuss the details of your case with an attorney that understands the asbestos industry so that you have the best chances of a positive outcome. To have a qualified asbestos attorney review your case, contact Nemeroff Law Firm today.

How long do I have to file a mesothelioma lawsuit?

Statutes of limitations on mesothelioma personal injury and wrongful death cases vary from state to state. Typically the time limit to file a case is two years after diagnosis – or in the case of a wrongful death case, the time limit to file is two years after the date of death. The face of asbestos litigation is changing as the government seeks to limit the damages that can be awarded for asbestos-related lawsuits, so it is imperative that you speak with an attorney regarding your mesothelioma case as soon as possible.

How can I find an attorney in my area?

Finding the right attorney to represent you or a loved one in a mesothelioma case is very important. Firms that don't have a broad understanding of chemical exposure cases (and more specifically, asbestos cases) may not be the best choice for mesothelioma patients as this is a very specialized aspect of personal injury litigation. Attorneys that handle mesothelioma cases on a regular basis understand the needs of their clients and the level of investigation that must take place to prove their client's asbestos exposure. Further, many mesothelioma attorneys practice in multiple states and can travel to where you are to conveniently provide the representation needed for a successful case. More information from an asbestos attorney that can help you in your area is available from Nemeroff Law Firm.

Glossary

Actinolite

A type of amphibole asbestos, actinolite is a green mineral comprised of calcium, magnesium, and iron silicate. Actinolite is one of the six fibrous minerals in the asbestos family. Actinolite was never used commercially.

Adenocarcinoma

Adenocarcinoma is a type of cancer that originates in the glandular tissue.

Amosite

One of the six fibrous minerals that naturally forms asbestos material. This mineral was commonly found in commercial asbestos products.

Amphibole

An amphibole is a group of silicate minerals containing crystal structures made up of some combination of calcium, sodium, magnesium, aluminum, and iron.

Asbestos

A type of fire proof and chemical resistant fibrous mineral commonly found in materials used for electric insulation, building materials, chemical filters, brake linings, and fire proofing. Asbestos exposure can result in dangerous conditions such as asbestosis, mesothelioma, and lung cancer.

Asbestosis

Asbestosis is a persistent, progressive lung disease that results from long-term exposure to asbestos. Symptoms include shortness of breath, coughing, chest pains, weakness, lung infections, lung damage, and heart failure.

Carcinogenic

A carcinogenic is a substance that causes cancer, such as asbestos or silica.

Carcinoma

A malignant form of cancer that begins in the skin or tissues that lines the organs before spreading to other areas of the body.

Chrysotile

One of the fibrous minerals found in commercial asbestos-containing products. A variety of serpentine, chrysotile was found in almost all industrial asbestos.

Crocidolite

A member of the amphibole group, crocidolite is also known as blue asbestos. This form of asbestos was found in commercial building materials.

Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the study of the causes, spread, and distribution of diseases in the population.

Friable

When friable material is dry, it can easily be crumbled into smaller pieces or powder.

Invasive Cancer

Invasive cancer refers to cancer that has spread beyond where it originated to other areas of the body.

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is the excessive growth of anomalous cells in the lungs.

Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a rare form of cancer that is typically found in individuals exposed to asbestos. Generally malignant, the tumors start in the tissue or lining of the lungs (mesothelium), especially in the pleura and peritoneum.

Pneumoconiosis

Pneumoconiosis is a lung disease resulting in fibrosis and scarring caused by long-term inhalation of dangerous materials such as metallic or mineral dust. Asbestosis and silicosis are forms of pneumoconiosis.

Serpentine

Serpentine refers to one of the two major groups of minerals used as a source of asbestos.

Silicosis

Silicosis is a lung disease that results from prolonged inhalation of silica dust.

Statute of Limitations

A statute of limitations is a law that designates how long a period of time a plaintiff has to file a lawsuit. Statutes of limitations are dependent upon the type of case and the state in which the suit is filed.

Tremolite

Tremolite is an amphibole mineral commonly used as a form of asbestos. Tremolite has not been available for commercial use.

About our Firm

Nemeroff Law Firm is rooted in helping good people who have suffered as a result of negligent corporations. Thousands of people a year are diagnosed with mesothelioma. Thousands more are diagnosed with asbestosis. They make up just a small fraction of loyal workers that are exposed to dangerous substances or are put in harm's way by their employers. Rick Nemeroff and his staff believe that corporations that knowingly or negligently put their employees and consumers of their products at a health risk should be held liable.

It is this belief that drives Rick Nemeroff to do whatever is necessary to best represent plaintiffs in such cases. Thorough investigation, advanced technology, and a deep understanding of both chemical exposure and asbestos related personal injury litigation have made Rick Nemeroff one of the premier mesothelioma attorneys in the nation.

Rick Nemeroff has secured numerous record-breaking, multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of victims of asbestos exposure. He is fully committed to his clients—taking time to personally understand each of the cases he represents. Mr. Nemeroff is often called on by other law firms to help represent clients in difficult chemical exposure cases.

Licensed to practice in New York and Dallas, Rick represents mesothelioma victims in all 50 states. To learn more about Nemeroff Law Firm, or if you or a loved one has been exposed to asbestos or diagnosed with mesothelioma, please don't hesitate to contact Rick Nemeroff today.

Cancer Treatment Centers

Major Cancer Centers

Quality, experienced care is essential for treating and managing any cancer. This is especially true of mesothelioma because it is such an aggressive and rare disease. New methods of mesothelioma treatment are being researched by some of the brightest professionals and prestigious medical centers in the country. Often, cancer centers that treat mesothelioma patients offer cancer support programs for family members as well as the patients themselves. A list of treatment centers is available below.

ALABAMA

[UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

University of Alabama at Birmingham
1824 Sixth Avenue South , Room 237
Birmingham, Alabama 35293-3300
Tel: 205/934-5077
Fax: 205/975-7428
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

ARIZONA

[Arizona Cancer Center](#)

University of Arizona
1501 North Campbell Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85724
Tel: 520/626-7925
Fax: 520/626-2284
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

CALIFORNIA

[City of Hope National Medical Center](#) &

Beckman Research Institute
1500 East Duarte Road
Duarte , California 91010-3000
Tel: 626/359-8111 X64297
Fax: 626/930-5394
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[Salk Institute](#)

10010 North Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, California 92037
Tel: 858/453-4100 X1386

Fax: 858/457-4765
(Cancer Center)

[The Burnham Institute](#)

10901 North Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, California 92037
Tel: 858/646-3100
Fax: 858/713-6274
(Cancer Center)

[Rebecca and John Moores UCSD Cancer Center](#)

9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0658
(858) 534-7600 phone
(858) 534-7628 fax University of California at San Diego

[Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

University of California Los Angeles
Factor Building, Room 8-684
10833 Le Conte Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90095-1781
Tel: 310/825-5268
Fax: 310/206-5553
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

University of Southern California
1441 Eastlake Avenue , NOR 8302L
Los Angeles, California 90089-9181
Tel: 323/865-0816
Fax: 323/865-0102
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

University of California at Irvine
101 The City Drive
Building. 23, Rt. 81, Room 406
Orange, California 92868
Tel: 714/456-6310
Fax: 714/456-2240
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[UC Davis Cancer Center](#)

University of California, Davis
4501 X Street, Suite 3003
Sacramento, California 95817

Tel: 916/734-5800
Fax: 916/451-4464
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center & Cancer Research Institute](#)

University of California San Francisco
2340 Sutter Street, Box 0128
San Francisco , California 94115-0128
Tel: 415/502-1710
Fax: 415/502-1712
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

COLORADO

[University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)

University of Colorado Health Science Center
4200 East 9th Avenue, Box B188
Denver , Colorado 80262
Tel: 303/315-3007
Fax: 303/315-3304
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

CONNECTICUT

[Yale Cancer Center](#)

Yale University School of Medicine
333 Cedar Street, Box 208028
New Haven , Connecticut 06520 -8028
Tel: 203/785-4371
Fax: 203/785-4116
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[Lombardi Cancer Research Center](#)

Georgetown University Medical Center
3800 Reservoir Road, N.W.
Washington , DC 20007
Tel: 202/687-2110
Fax: 202/687-6402
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

FLORIDA

[H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute](#)

at the University of South Florida

12902 Magnolia Drive , MCC-CEO
Tampa, Florida 33612-9497
Tel: 813/615-4261
Fax: 813/615-4258
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

HAWAII

[Cancer Research Center of Hawaii](#)

University of Hawaii at Manoa
1236 Lauhala Street
Honolulu , Hawaii 96813
Tel: 808/586-3013
Fax: 808/586-3052
(Clinical Cancer Center)

ILLINOIS

[University of Chicago Cancer Research Center](#)

5841 South Maryland Avenue , MC 2115
Chicago, Illinois 60637-1470
Tel: 773/702-9306
Fax: 773/702-3002
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

of Northwestern University
303 East Chicago Avenue
Olson Pavilion 8250
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Tel: 312/908-5250
Fax: 312/908-1372
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

INDIANA

[Indiana University Cancer Center](#)

Indiana Cancer Pavilion
535 Barnhill Drive, Room 455
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5289
Tel: 317/278-0070
Fax: 317/278-0074
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[Purdue University Cancer Center](#)

Hansen Life Sciences Research Building

South University Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-1524
Tel: 765/494-9129
Fax: 765/494-9193
(Cancer Center)

IOWA

[Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) at
The University of Iowa
5970 "Z" JPP
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
Tel: 319/353-8620
Fax: 319/353-8988
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

MAINE

[The Jackson Laboratory](#)
600 Main Street
Bar Harbor , Maine 04609-0800
Tel: 207/288-6041
Fax: 207/288-6044
(Cancer Center)

MARYLAND

[The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)
at Johns Hopkins
401 North Broadway
The Weinberg Building, Suite 1100
Baltimore, Maryland 21231
Tel: 410/955-8822
Fax: 410/955-6787
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

MASSACHUSETTS

[Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center](#)
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
44 Binney Street , Rm. 1628
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
Tel: 617/632-4266
Fax: 617/632-2161
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA](#)

Division of Thoracic Surgery
Brigham and Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street
Boston , MA 02115
(617) 732-6824

[Center for Cancer Research](#)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue , Room E17-110
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-4307
Tel: 617/253-8511
Fax: 617/253-0262
(Cancer Center)

MICHIGAN

[Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

University of Michigan
6302 CGC/0942
1500 East Medical Center Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-0942
Tel: 734/936-1831
Fax: 734/615-3947
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[The Meyer L. Prentis Comprehensive Cancer Center of Metropolitan Detroit](#) , *operated by,*

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute
Wayne State University
4100 John R
Detroit, Michigan 48201
Tel: 313/993-7770
Fax: 313/993-7165
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

MINNESOTA

[University of Minnesota Cancer Center](#)

MMC 806, 420 Delaware Street, S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
Tel: 612/624-8484
Fax: 612/626-3069
(Compenhensive Cancer Center)

[Mayo Clinic College of Medicine](#)

Mayo Clinic Rochester
200 First Street, S.W.
Rochester, Minnesota 55905
Tel: 507/284-3753
Fax: 507/284-9349
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

MISSOURI

[Siteman Cancer Center](#)

Washington University School of Medicine
660 South Euclid Avenue , Campus Box 8109
St. Louis, Missouri 63110
Tel: 314/362-8020
Fax: 314/454-1898
(Clinical Cancer Center)

NEBRASKA

[University of Nebraska Medical Center/
Eppley Cancer Center](#)

600 South 42nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68198 -6805
Tel: 402/559-4238
Fax: 402/559-4652
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[Creighton University Medical Center, Omaha, NE](#)

601 N 30th Street
Omaha, NE 68131
Ph: 402-449-4000
Fax: 402-449-5020

NEW HAMPSHIRE

[Norris Cotton Cancer Center](#)

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
One Medical Center Drive , Hinman Box 7920
Lebanon, New Hampshire 03756-0001
Tel: 603/653-9000
Fax: 603/653-9003
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

NEW JERSEY

[The Cancer Institute of New Jersey](#)

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
195 Little Albany Street, Room 2002B
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
Tel: 732/235-8064
Fax: 732/235-8094
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

NEW YORK

[Cancer Research Center](#)

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Chanin Building, Room 209
1300 Morris Park Avenue
Bronx, New York 10461
Tel: 718/430-2302
Fax: 718/430-8550
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[Roswell Park Cancer Institute](#)

Elm & Carlton Streets
Buffalo, New York 14263-0001
Tel: 716/845-5772
Fax: 716/845-8261
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[NYU Cancer Institute](#)

New York University Medical Center
550 First Avenue
New York , New York 10016
Tel: 212/263-8950
Fax: 212/263-8210
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center](#)

1275 York Avenue
New York , New York 10021
Tel: 212/639-2000 or 800/525-2225
Fax: 212/717-3299
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[Institute for Cancer Prevention](#)

390 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor

New York, New York 10018
Tel: 212/551-2500
Fax: 212/687-2339
(Cancer Center)

[Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

College of Physicians & Surgeons
Columbia University
161 Fort Washington Avenue
11h Floor, Room 1153
New York, New York 10032
Tel: 212/305-5201
Fax: 212/305-6813
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

NORTH CAROLINA

[UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
School of Medicine, CB-7295
102 West Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7295
Tel: 919/966-3036
Fax: 919/966-3015
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Duke University Medical Center
Box 3843
Durham , North Carolina 27710
Tel: 919/684-5613
Fax: 919/684-5653
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Wake Forest University
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem , North Carolina 27157-1082
Tel: 336/716-7971
Fax: 336/716-0293
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

OHIO

[Case Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Case Western Reserve University

11100 Euclid Ave. , Wearn 151
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-5065
Tel: 216/844-8562
Fax: 216/844-4975
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital &
Richard J. Solove Research Institute](#)

Ohio State University
A458 Staring Loving Hall
320 West 10th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Tel: 614/293-7521
Fax: 614/293-7522
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

OREGON

[OHSU Cancer Institute](#)

Oregon Health & Science University 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd., CR145
Portland, Oregon 97201-3098
Tel: 503/494-1617
Fax: 503/494-7086
(Clinical Cancer Center)

PENNSYLVANIA

[Abramson Cancer Center](#) of the
University of Pennsylvania
16th Floor Penn Tower
3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-4283
Tel: 215/662-6065
Fax: 215/349-5325
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[The Wistar Institute](#) 3601 Spruce Street
Philadelphia , Pennsylvania 19104-4268
Tel: 215/898-3926
Fax: 215/573-2097
(Cancer Center)

[Fox Chase Cancer Center](#)

7701 Burholme Avenue
Philadelphia , Pennsylvania 19111
Tel: 215/728-2781

Fax: 215/728-2571
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[Kimmel Cancer Center](#)

Thomas Jefferson University 233 South 10th Street
BLSB, Room 1050
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-5799
Tel: 215/503-4645
Fax: 215/923-3528
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute](#)

UPMC Cancer Pavilion
5150 Centre Avenue, Suite 500
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232
Tel: 412/623-3205
Fax: 412/623-3210
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

TENNESSEE

[St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)

332 North Lauderdale
P.O. Box 318
Memphis, Tennessee 38105-2794
Tel: 901/495-3301
Fax: 901/525-2720
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center](#)

Vanderbilt University 691 Preston Research Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37232-6838
Tel: 615/936-1782
Fax: 615/936-1790
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

TEXAS

University of Texas
[M.D. Anderson Cancer Center](#)
1515 Holcombe Boulevard, Box 91
Houston , Texas 77030
Tel: 713/792-2121
Fax: 713/799-2210
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

[San Antonio Cancer Institute](#) University of Texas Health Science Center
at San Antonio
Department of Hematology
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900
Tel: 210/567-4848
Fax: 210/567-1956
(Clinical Cancer Center)

UTAH

[Huntsman Cancer Institute](#)
University of Utah
2000 Circle of Hope
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-5550
Tel: 801/585-3401
Fax: 801/585-6345
(Clinical Cancer Center)

VERMONT

[Vermont Cancer Center](#)
University of Vermont
149 Beaumont Ave. , HRSF326
Burlington, Vermont 05405
Tel: 802/656-4414
Fax: 802/656-8788
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

VIRGINIA

[Cancer Center](#)
University of Virginia, Health Sciences Center
Jefferson Park Ave. , Room 617E
Charlottesville, Virginia 22908
Tel: 434/243-9926
Fax: 434/982-0918
(Clinical Cancer Center)

[Massey Cancer Center](#)
Virginia Commonwealth University P.O. Box 980037
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0037
Tel: 804/828-0450
Fax: 804/828-8453
(Clinical Cancer Center)

WASHINGTON

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#)

P.O. Box 19024 , D1-060
Seattle, Washington 98109-1024
Tel: 206/667-4305
Fax: 206/667-5268
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

WISCONSIN

[Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI](#)

600 Highland Ave. , Rm. K4/610
Madison, Wisconsin 53792-0001
Tel: 608/263-8610
Fax: 608/263-8613
(Comprehensive Cancer Center)

Family Resources

Once mesothelioma metastasizes and spreads to distant organs, a cure is not possible. Most people who are diagnosed with mesothelioma suffer from a very advanced form of the disease and die within a year of the diagnosis. At this point, care for the terminally ill patients shifts from treatment to pain management and easing the process of dying. For this purpose, families of mesothelioma victims should consider outside aid and care.

- [Hospice](#)
- [Support Groups](#)
- [Legal Aid](#)

Hospice

Hospice organizations operate under the principle of palliative care. Palliative care is an approach to care that aims to improve the quality of life...

Support Groups

Mesothelioma support groups are also a valuable resource available to those coping with the devastating effects of this terminal illness.

Legal Aid

Mesothelioma can hit a victim and his or her family quick and hard. It is important that victims receive immediate and competent medical care once diagnosed. However, the affected family is often unprepared for such a blow and unable to support the resulting medical expenses.

Since the only known cause of mesothelioma is repeated asbestos exposure, manufactures utilizing asbestos can be held liable for damages and medical expenses associated with the disease.

An aggressive attorney representing your interests can work to ensure that the companies responsible for you or your loved one's illness are held financially accountable. If you or a loved one is in need of an attorney who is not only experienced and competent but also compassionate, contact one of our qualified asbestos attorneys today. We will secure the maximum financial compensation possible and help relieve your financial burden during this difficult period.

Hospice

Hospice organizations operate under the principle of palliative care. Palliative care is an approach to care that aims to improve the quality of life of a terminally ill patient by preventing and relieving symptoms and suffering. Every individual in the last stage of life deserves a dignified, pain-free death. With hospice care, this is possible.

Hospice care occurs primarily in the home, although it can also take place in a hospital, nursing home, hospice facility, or another long-term care facility. The National Hospice Foundation, an organization promoting compassionate assistance for the terminally ill for more than 25 years, conducted a survey that found over 80 percent of Americans would prefer to die at home. With hospice care, 75 percent of patients pass on in the comfort of their home, in a familiar environment surrounded by loved ones.

Hospice care focuses on alleviating pain and symptoms of the disease and helping the patients and their families come to terms with the future. A team of doctors, nurses, social workers, and counselors or clergy members assists a family member, who acts as the primary caregiver, with the care of the patient. This team constantly evaluates the changing needs of the patient and adjusts medications and care accordingly. Regular home visits and around-the-clock care are also features of this compassionate approach to nursing.

Hospice care relies heavily on a team of trained and dedicated volunteers who are the crux of effective hospice care. These are the individuals who relieve the primary caregivers, help with household chores, and bathe and dress the patients. Most importantly, the volunteers provide an empathetic ear and are always willing to listen to the patient, the caregiver, and his or her family.

Easing the passing of loved ones is a primary concern of families, but many individuals worry about how they will afford comprehensive hospice care. Fortunately, almost anyone can afford quality hospice care. Of all the people who receive hospice care each year, 80 percent are over the age of 65. This means they are eligible for the Medicare Hospice Benefit, which covers all care with practically no out-of-pocket expenses. Most private health plans and Medicaid programs also cover almost all costs involved in hospice care.

Dealing with the terminal illness of a loved one is an extremely stressful and disheartening experience. This period is even more difficult when the onset of terminal symptoms occurs suddenly and unexpectedly, as with most mesothelioma cases. Hospice care allows a patient's family to maintain the responsibilities of their normal lives while giving them the comfort of knowing their loved one is being looked after by a team of trained, compassionate caregivers. A list of national hospice centers is listed below.

Hospice Centers

[American Hospice Foundation](#)

2120 L St., NW Ste. 200
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: 202/223-0204
Fax: 202/223-0208

[The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization \(NHPCO\)](#)

1700 Diagonal Road Ste. 625
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: 703/837-1500
800/658-8898 (Helpline)

[The Hospice Association of America \(HAA\)](#)

228 Seventh St., SE
Washington, DC 20003
Tel: 202/546-4759

[The Hospice Education Institute](#)

190 Westbrook Rd.
Essex, CT 06426-1510
Tel: 860/767-1620
800/331-1620

[Hospice of the Bluegrass](#)

Tel: 800/876-6005

[The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast](#)

300 East Bay Drive
Largo, Florida 33770
Tel: 727/586-4432

[The American Cancer Society \(ACS\)](#)

1599 Clifton Rd., NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-4251
Tel: 800/ACS-2345

[Hospice Net](#)

Suite 51
401 Bowling Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205-5124
info@hospicenet.org

Cancer Support Centers

Support Groups

Mesothelioma support groups are also a valuable resource available to those coping with the devastating effects of this terminal illness. Through support group meetings and discussions, families and patients become aware of the reality of mesothelioma. The disease loses its capacity to intimidate and frighten its victims and their families because they learn what to expect.

More importantly, however, a gathering of people sharing similar experiences lets a person know that he or she is not alone. Mesothelioma drastically changes people's lives in a very short period of time and often without warning. Shock, denial, and anger are common initial reactions that a person must move beyond in order to come to terms with the disease and prepare for the future. It is imperative that victims and their families have confidants that can relate to their experiences and provide comfort and advice in their time of need. Support groups afford victims and families some measure of peace and stability during a period of extreme chaos and confusion.

If you or a loved one needs the support of a mesothelioma cancer group, ask your physician for references or contact the American Cancer Society. Additional cancer support groups are listed below.

[Alliance for Lung Cancer Advocacy, Support, and Education \(ALCASE\)](#)

P.O. Box 849
Vancouver, WA 98666
Tel: 360/696-2436
800/298-2436

[American Cancer Society \(ACS\)](#)

1599 Clifton Rd., NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-4251
Tel: 404/320-3333
800/227-2345

[American Institute for Cancer Research \(AICR\)](#)

1759 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: 202/328-7744
1-800-843-8114

[Cancer Care, Inc.](#)

National Office
275 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10001
Tel: 212/712-8080
800/813-4673
212/712-8400 (Administration)

[Cancer Hope Network](#)

Two North Road
Chester, NJ 07930
Tel: 877/467-3638

[Cancer Information and Counseling Line \(CICL\)](#)

1600 Pierce St.
Denver, CO 80214
Tel: 800/525-3777

[Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation](#)

1600 Duke St. Ste. 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: 703/836-4412
800/227-2732

[Gilda's Club® Worldwide](#)

322 Eighth Avenue Ste. 1402
New York, NY 10001
Tel: 888/445-3248

[National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship \(NCCS\)](#)

1010 Wayne Avenue Ste. 770
Silver Spring, MD 20910-5600
Tel: 301/650-9127
877/622-7937

[Patient Advocate Foundation \(PAF\)](#)

753 Thimble Shoals Boulevard Ste B
Newport News, VA 23606
Tel: 757/873-6668
800/532-5274

[R. A. Bloch Cancer Foundation, Inc.](#)

4400 Main St.
Kansas City, MO 64111
Tel: 816/932-8453
800/433-0464

[Vital Options® International TeleSupport® Cancer Network](#)

15821 Ventura Boulevard Ste. 645
Encino, CA 91436-2946
Tel: 818/788-5225
800/477-7666

[The Wellness Community](#)

919 18th Street, NW Ste. 54
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202/659-9709
888/793-9355