

November 10, 1944

Dr. R. J. Ritterhoff
Director of Laboratories
County of Hamilton
The Tuberculosis Hospital
Price Hill
Cincinnati 5, Ohio

Dear Dr. Ritterhoff:

I am most grateful to you for allowing me to see the sections on your unusually interesting case of asbestosis and carcinoma of the lungs. I agree that this combination is not on the record as far as I know and that it would be most desirable to publish your findings.

Obviously the carcinoma constitutes the predominant pathological change and there is in addition a minimal amount of asbestosis. It is hard to be sure exactly how much of the fibrosis is due to the inhaled dust. However, this is no where extensive as you wrote and the number of asbestosis bodies is smaller than seen in many cases. One would infer that the man's exposure to asbestos fibers had been limited although the occupational history says nothing about the nature of his work.

I hope I may be permitted to keep those slides as they are really very beautiful.

It might help to have a chemical analysis of the tissue to determine the amount of Magnesium present. We have a fairly extensive series of figures on the findings in asbestosis. X-ray diffraction, however, is of no help as to quantity of hydrated magnesium silicate. It is too small to register even in advanced cases.

If we can be of any service in this regard we will be very glad to cooperate. Again may I thank you for allowing me to review the material.

Sincerely yours,

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Leroy U. Gardner, M. D.
Director

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