

1 is important is that asbestos, for the most part, does
2 not leave the body.

3 The asbestos fibers are durable. They stay
4 in the lungs and they continue to cause damage, even
5 if an individual does not inhale more fibers.

6 Q Now, you mentioned many years later.

7 Is that what is known as the concept of
8 latency?

9 A Yes. Latency is an important concept.
10 Mesothelioma does not arise immediately after people
11 are exposed to asbestos fibers. It takes many years
12 for all of the mutations to occur, for these cells to
13 develop into cancerous cells.

14 In general, it has been observed that
15 mesotheliomas occur 20 years or longer after the first
16 exposure to asbestos.

17 I should say that the diagnosis of
18 mesothelioma occurs 20 years or longer after the first
19 exposure to asbestos.

20 Q If you --

21 A In many individuals that is 30, 40, even 50