

from 1925 to 1938, and later in a plastic fabrication plant which utilized fiber glass; he also had been a welder for 25 years. He thinks he has used asbestos but could not recall when and where.

Patient 10-Q, a 63-year-old man, was a core-maker all his life. He worked in two foundries in one of which asbestos cement is used in small quantities but, according to the plant manager, the core-maker did not have any contact with this material. The son stated that his father had used asbestos pipe insulation for pipes in the basement of their home several years prior to the onset of his illness and that he had done some sawing of this pipe insulation material.

All cases in this group had pleural mesotheliomas.

Mesothelioma Patients Without Asbestos Exposure.—In the other 11 patients (1-X to 11-X) no occupational, familial or neighborhood asbestos exposure evidence could be elicited. Ten of these patients had mesothelioma of the pleura and one peritoneal mesothelioma.

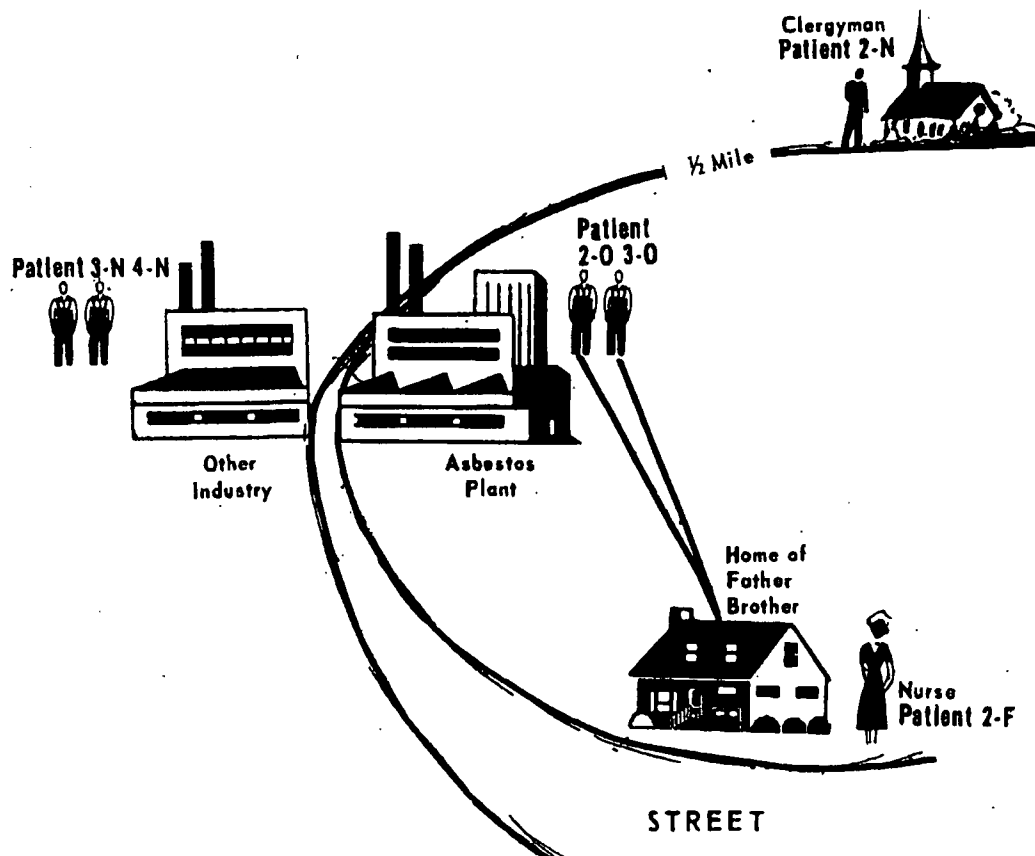
Comment

This study presents a good deal of circumstantial evidence and many unanswered questions.

Asbestos is a ubiquitous material used much more frequently than is generally realized. Some uses, such as in the brewery, were not previously known to the writers. There are undoubtedly many others.

If we assume that asbestos may be the causative or trigger agent for malignant mesothelioma in some of the cases described above, we must admit that the minimal dose-effect relationship and duration of a latent period are unknown. The occupational exposure of the insulation workers or asbestos textile workers were certainly many thousand times higher than those of the neighborhood cases or family contacts. Similar findings have recently been reported from England.¹

The attack rate for mesotheliomas is ex-



Occupational, neighborhood, and family contact patients with mesothelioma associated with one insulation plant.

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