

THE SPECTRUM OF ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES.

Joseph MR, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital NSW.

An analysis of 180 patients with asbestos related diseases seen during the period June 1988 - December 1991, referred for medicolegal assessment. All but 2 were males. The ages ranged from 39-82 years with a mean of 63. Mesothelioma was the commonest condition accounting for 66 patients (36%) 3 of whom has peritoneal mesothelioma. The other conditions were asbestosis 50 (28%), pleural plaques 26 (14%), asbestotic pleurisy 14 (8%), carcinoma of the lung with asbestosis 7 (4%), carcinoma of the lung with pleural plaques 4 (2%), carcinoma of lung without asbestosis and pleural plaques but with a significant history of asbestos exposure 11 (6%), carcinoma of larynx 2 (1%). The occupations of those with mesothelioma and asbestosis were:

OCCUPATIONS	MESOTHEL.(66)		ASBESTOSIS (50)		No difference was found in the degree of asbestos exposure between the 3 who had peritoneal mesothelioma and those who had pleural mesothelioma. The average age of the mesothelioma patients was 56 years and the average time from first exposure to diagnosis was 37 years.
	No.	%	No.	%	
Asbestos factory	15	23	20	40	The average age of the mesothelioma patients was 56 years and the average time from first exposure to diagnosis was 37 years.
Building Constr.	7	10.5	-	-	
Laggers/insulators	5	7.5	10	20	
Dockyard/waterside	5	7.5	5	10	
Wittenoom	4	6	2	4	
R'way workshops	4	6	-	-	
Engineers	4	6	-	-	
Friction Prods.	4	6	-	-	
Domestic	2	1.5	-	-	
Power stations	1	-	4	8	
Misc.	16	23	10	10	

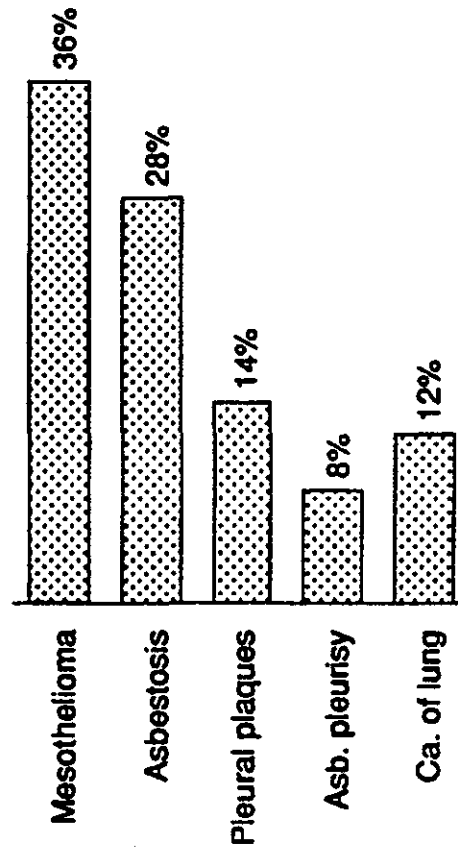
The shortest survival from the time of diagnosis was 3 months and 2 patients are still living at 3 and 4½ years. We are now reaping the harvest from the 1950's and 60's when the dangers of asbestos dust were known but not heeded.

The above is an abstract of a paper presented on 2/4/92 at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand, held in Canberra.

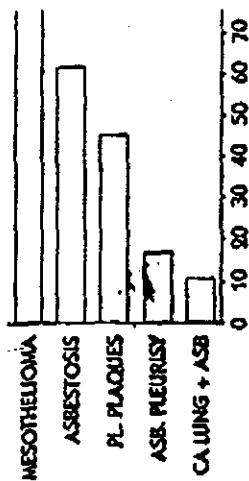
The above is an abstract of a paper presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand on 2/4/92 at Canberra.

Maurice Joseph

Asbestos related diseases
n=180



Occupations	Mesothel (97)		Asbestosis (62)	
	N°	%	N°	%
Asbestos factory	20	20	27	43
Bldg/Construct	11	11	0	0
Ladders/Insulators	6	6	12	20
Dock/Water-side	10	10	10	15
Engineers	12	12	0	0
R'way W/S	4	4	4	6
Power Sns	4	4	4	6
Friction Prods	4	4	0	0
Domestic	2	2	0	0
Misc.	16	16	10	15
Wittennoom	5	5	3	2



Occupations	Mesothel. (66)		Asbestosis (50)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%
Asbestos factory	15	23	20	40
Building Constr.	7	10.5	—	—
Laggers/insulators	5	7.5	10	20
Dockyard/waterside	5	7.5	5	10
Wittenoom	4	6	2	4
R'way workshops	4	6	—	—
Engineers	4	6	—	—
Friction Prods.	4	6	—	—
Domestic	2	1.5	—	—
Power stations	1	—	4	8
Misc.	16	23	10	5