

Closely connected to the physicochemical features of asbestos and its action on a cell is, obviously, its malignant effect. An enormous number of publications in the last two decades leaves no doubt of the fact that among those who were subjected to the action of asbestos dust, one can observe considerably higher indices of mortality from the cancer of the lungs, mesothelioma of the pleura, or from cancer of other organs. The social significance of this question for all industrially developed countries is borne out by the fact that the International Union Against Cancer (U.I.C.C.) created the Committee "Asbestos and Cancer." The problem is found among those which interest the World Health Organization. In our work in conjunction with S. Yu. Troitskiy and M. R. Gulevskaya it was established that mortality from cancer of the lungs for 10 years among workers in asbestos-enriching factories was 3.6 times higher than among other populations (with standardization of sex and age). Among the patients with asbestosis, cancer of the lungs was the reason for death in 9%, and cancer other than that of the lungs in 31% of the cases. Even larger concern is caused by the reports from Canada (Cartier), USA (Selicoff et al, 1968; Cooper et al, 1968), YuAR (Wagner, 1960), Scotland (Maitre et al), Finland (Kiviluoto et al.), FRG (Bohlig), CSR (Navratil, 1968), etc.

In recent years many investigators were able to obtain malignant growth - cancer, mesothelioma of the pleura and cancer of other organs - in experiment by means of the introduction of asbestos under the skin, intraperitoneal or intrapleural introduction (Schmall, 1968, Peacock, 1968, Roe and Harington, 1967). The dependence of carcinogenic effect on the introduced dose of asbestos and form of the latter is shown (Smith et al, 1968). J. and R. Graham showed the possibility for the development of cancer of the ovary upon intraperitoneal introduction of asbestos. The possibility for migration of filaments on through the lymphatic system and the formations of metastases in the lungs are shown.