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Date March 21, 1970

Originating Dept. Medical Department

Answering letter date

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Subject Toxicity of Calidria Asbestos

Asbestos has practically no acute toxicity regardless of its type or form. The harm associated with asbestos is from the fibrogenic properties of the inhaled dust. This usually is seen only after prolonged exposure measured in terms of 15-20 years although cases rarely will occur in less time.

Because of the rather unique structure characteristics of Calidria Asbestos, there was concern that it might be unusually fibrogenic and perhaps cause an acute asbestosis.

To test this possibility, Calidria Asbestos was injected into rats and rabbits intraperitoneally using a standard long fibre asbestos as a control. The results of this test showed Calidria Asbestos to be slightly more fibrogenic than long fibre asbestos but the difference was not so great as to suggest an unusual degree of hazard. From this I conclude that the same precautions to avoid breathing asbestos dust must be observed whether the dust be from Calidria Asbestos or from a standard long fibre form.

Some people believe there is an association between exposure to asbestos dust and the development of lung cancer and mesothelioma. There is no information regarding Calidria Asbestos in this respect as yet. It would be prudent to assume that Calidria Asbestos will behave like other asbestos in this regard.

C. U. Dernehl M.D.

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