

LUNG CANCER IN ASBESTOS MINERS

of 37.2, 25.3, and 28.0 obtained from various sources for adult males in the United States. Finally, in this matter of comparison, it would appear that the world-wide experience of persons exposed to asbestos dust is not worse with respect to lung cancer than that of the unexposed population.

The counties surrounding the asbestos-producing areas, in which it is presumed most of the asbestos miners live, have almost identical mortality rates with those of eight counties widely scattered through the Province, and are lower than those for the remainder of the Province, and much lower than the rate for Montreal.

Since 1940 there have been 19 cases in which the diagnosis of primary cancer of the lung may be considered to have been proved. Approximately half of these cases were associated with asbestosis. All but one died in the recognized "cancer-age" and at least one-third had only the lightest exposure (Category 1) to asbestos dust.

On the basis of what are believed to be complete and reliable data, it seems fair to conclude that the asbestos miners in the Province of Quebec do not have a significantly higher death rate from lung cancer than do comparable segments of the general population.

Furthermore, the death rate from lung cancer in the areas contiguous to the asbestos operations is comparable to that in areas widely scattered throughout the Province of Quebec and is lower than in some urbanized areas within the Province.

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Brown-Truon

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P2/
187/20