

(Whereupon, Mrs. Grewe stood.)

MR. IGNATOWSKI: This is Mrs. Grewe. Her husband was diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma in October of 1992.

He was dead within 11 months. He suffered excruciating pain and the evidence will show that.

Mr. Vandergucht -- Mrs. Vandergucht, would you please stand.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Vandergucht stood.)

MR. IGNATOWSKI: Mr. Vandergucht was diagnosed with peritoneal mesothelioma of the abdominal cavity in October of 1980.

He was dead within 11 months. He suffered excruciating pain, as the medical evidence in this case will show.

Mesothelioma happens and is caused by asbestos exposure. Each of these gentlemen had significant occupational exposure in their employment, and Mr. Shellenberger will explain that to you.

It happens because asbestos fibers are very small and microscopic, tiny, very sharp and very

pointy and can be inhaled into the body and also ingested and swallowed into the abdominal cavity.

Now, this is a schematic of a thoracic cavity; and this is just a diagram of the main stem windpipe, the two lungs, the right lung and the left lung.

Asbestos fibers when inhaled, travel down through these branch ways and they can get out into these areas called the alveoli and the respiratory bronchioles where respiration takes place.

The lung is a very dynamic organ, ladies and gentlemen. Its purpose is to get oxygen into our blood and carbon dioxide, which is a waste product, out of our blood.

Asbestos fibers because of their aerodynamic qualities can travel down into these airways and then through the normal course of breathing in and out, travel out to this area right here which is called the pleura.

Now, the pleura, ladies and gentlemen, has the appearance like a cellophane. It is like a

cellophane covering of the lung.

Imagine if you would for a moment that this sponge, because the human lung is sometimes characterized as a sponge because it has airways that branch throughout it, and imagine for a moment that this sponge is this left lung on this schematic diagram.

Along the parietal pleura which is along the chest walls which you have your nerves and muscles, the intercostal muscles, is a lining of this material which is called the parietal pleura.

What it does is contains and is composed of something called mesothelial cells. These cells create a slippery surface, a substance. Almost like the little bit of fluid that you have in your eyeball that your eye can move around freely.

The purpose of this covering here along the chest wall and the covering on the lung is so that there is a smooth surface so that when you breathe in and out, negative pressure when your diaphragm goes down and air goes in, your chest wall can move

freely.

In between these two spaces is called the pleural space and has just a tiny bit of fluid so you can breathe and your lungs can slide up and down easily.

On the lung itself is the visceral pleura which is this cellophaney material as well which is the covering and protection of the lung.

This pleura extends down into your abdominal cavity where your liver lies on the right and your spleen, stomach, and intestines lie over on the left-hand side and the middle portion of your abdomen.

This mesothelium, this mesothelial covering is about a 16th to 8th of an inch thick and it covers the inside of the cavity and all of the organs and it is there for protection.

The very ironic thing about it, ladies and gentlemen, is that asbestos fibers can, because it can penetrate into these areas, will affect these mesothelial cells and after repeated and repeated occupational exposures which you will see these