SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER, September 10, 1967

Rare cancer reported by Somerset physicians

By RUTH WINTER

High incidence of a rare and incurable cancer has been found at Somerset Hospital, Somerville, four physicians reported in an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The article links the rare disease, mesolthelioma, with asbestosis, a lung disease developed by people who inhale asbestos particles.

It notes that a large asbestos manufacturing plant is located within two miles of the hospital.

Johns-Manville Co. maintains a large plant in Bound Brook.

The article appeared in the Aug. 21 issue of the journal. Its authors are Drs. Maxwell Borow, Alfred Conston, Lawrence L. Livornese and Norbert Schalet from the hospital's departments of surgery and pathology.

Mesothelioma is a rare malignancy which infiltrates the lung cavity or the abdominal cavity, spreads rapidly and is incurable. The first large series of cases was diagnosed in 1957 at Johannesburg, South Africa. The majority of these patients had not actually worked with asbestos but had lived in the vicinity of the mines and mills and some had left these areas of exposure as young children. The average period between exposure and development of the tumor was 20 to 40 years.

A special section on cancer starts today on Page 33

Asbestosis is a lung disease developed by people who inhale asbestos particles.

The Somerset physicians reported that within a three-year period at Somerset Hospital, 17 cases of mesothelioma were found at surgery.

"Two of the patients," they said, "had contracted this malignancy with only environmental exposure consisting of

(Please turn to Page 8)

VPD-153-0001162

DANA-077