

1 abdominal cavity and encases all of the intestines.

2 Q Why is it called malignant?

3 A Malignant refers to cancerous.

4 Q Is diffuse malignant mesothelioma of either
5 the pleura or the abdominal cavity a common tumor?

6 A No, sir. In a general population, it is
7 very uncommon. It is said about one case per million
8 people per year in a general population.

9 Q Now, do you have an opinion, Dr. Gabrielson,
10 with reasonable medical certainty as to what causes
11 pleural and peritoneal diffuse malignant mesothelioma
12 in humans?

13 A Yes, sir. By far the most important cause
14 and the only really scientifically proven cause of
15 mesothelioma is asbestos exposure.

16 The background incidence is very low, as I
17 have said, but in asbestos exposed individuals, that
18 incidence is much, much higher.

19 Q And has that -- as part of your daily
20 practice and as part of your research, Doctor, do you
21 rely upon and use the field of epidemiology?