

animals showed the effects of asbestos in the tissue as hyperplasia, metaplasia and finally, carcinomata of mostly multiple origin. The pleura-cancer, etc., possibly develops multicentrically on the same side of the thorax, as we believe we cannot totally exclude after our biopsy findings in altogether 10 cases within the past 3 years. Even in the relatively early stages we must almost always find the entire pleura parietalis and visceralis of at least one half of the thorax attacked, that is why surgical treatment of these swellings (tumors) are as good as hopeless. The asbestos crystals, which, as is well known, also pierce the pleura, are forming the chronic, carcinogenous stimulus which is leading to cancer mostly only after a longer time interval (according to NORDSTRAND 15 to 21 years after begin of work with asbestos). In our case, the time interval of 3 years between proven cancer and start of work with asbestos is long, yet the danger of asbestos dust lasted for altogether 22 years and was especially intensive in the first 15 years.

The pleura-cancer is considered rare, yet when until 1947 (aside from 6 cases of the much more frequent bronchial cancer as the occupational cancer of asbestos workers) 2 of the rare pleura-cancers in combination with lung asbestosis were observed, one may well accept the latter's causal connection with asbestosis.

Adding our case, we are nearly certain to define the pleura-cancer as a special form of the asbestos-cancer. In our case, its proof in vivo was not only extremely useful with regard to the x-ray plan, but also for the patient himself, who now, while still alive, is able to enjoy the benefit of compensation for his occupational illness.

Summary :

To our knowledge, first description of a case of lung-asbestosis with pleura-cancer, in which tumor tissues with asbestos corpuscles could be diagnosed in vivo by way of thoracoscopy with test-excisions from pleura. To regard pleura-cancer as a special form of the occupational cancer of asbestos workers has proven to be justified.