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LINK ASBESTOS TO CANCER OF LUNGS, COLON

New York, March 1 (AP) — Mount Sinai hospital reported today that asbestos, used in brake linings and other common products, may be a cancer-related danger to the general public as well as to those who come into contact with it in industry.

"The Mount Sinai studies show that direct occupational exposure to asbestos increases the risk of pneumoconiosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma, and possibly cancer of the stomach and colon," the hospital said. "Evidence also has been obtained that some asbestos fibers may be present in the lungs of at least one-quarter of the urban population of the United States."

The statement was released along with the hospital's announcement of a new laboratory to assess the asbestos danger to industrial occupations and the public.

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