It was of interest to note how frequently, beside the calcifications of the pleura that were observed in Dresdon, there were also observations of such diffuse malignant mesotheliomas. For this purpose, those cases were studied that had not yet been registered with the silicosis information centre, and that could be observed in the years from 1950 to the first quarter of 1964 in the Pathological Institute and in the Clinic of Radiology of the Medical School Dresden.

All in all, 41 cases were studied in detail, out of which 12 were diagnosed by X-Ray, 20 anatomically and pathologically and (copy illegible) by both methods (see chart).

The attempt was made in retrospect to establish anamneses in detail about job and living environment from the survivors of the deceased, which often proved to be very hard. The section material from the above mentioned institute was checked under consideration of a possible exposure to asbestos for fibroid changes in the lungs and asbestos particles, since in earlier years the connection with an exposure to asbestos was not recognized.

The cases 1-6 from the period 1933-1941 can be excluded from the deliberations, since by coincidence, X-Ray films of these cases exist, but no section material is given, and no job-or-living anamnesis could be established. But these six cases demonstrate the fact that the pleural mesothelioma was by no means absent from the area around Dresden, even in the years before the war, at a time when the literature had only few reports about the occurrence of such pleural mesotheliomas, and that they could be linked to the asbestos industry that existed since before 1900.

Among the cases that were given since 1950 as diffuse malignant pleural mesotheliomas, there was to be observed:

a.) in 9 cases, a job-related exposure to asbestos (25.7%)
b.) in 9 cases, a risk in the living circumstances through asbestos dust (25.7%)
c.) 2 cases a silicosis (5.7%)
d.) in 7 cases no exposure could be determined (20%)
e.) in 8 cases, a discussion was entirely impossible (22.9%)

Group a includes 9 women. The ages ranged between 50 and 71 years, a median of 62.5 years. Four women were less than 60 years old. Four women worked as weavers and winders, two women worked as punchers of materials containing asbestos, one woman as a roller, and two women worked in the asbestos hose and ribbon production. The duration os exposure was two years. This woman had worked as a puncher. Two women worked for 10 and 30 years. The duration of exposure could not be determine for one woman. But there is no doubt that this woman, as a weaver, was exposed to asbestos through her job. The diagnoses were established once through X-Rays, 7 times anatomically and pathologically and once with both methods.