

For example, in rats receiving asbestos fibers by intratracheal injection fibrosis of characteristic type is visible as early as one month after injection; for quartz dust the latent period is two months or more. Thus, the development of nodular fibrosis due to inhaled silica lags behind the deposition of dust to a greater extent than does the evolution of the diffuse reaction to asbestos. This results in a difference in the degree of progression which follows termination of exposure to dust. For example, on discontinuing exposure, the nodules of silicosis become larger, to a limited extent, for a considerable period of time, whereas the fibrosis of asbestosis increases for only a short time. Subsequently, the asbestotic fibrosis contracts; this process often distorts the adjacent pulmonary tissue and may result in a progressive interference with cardio-respiratory function.

Asbestosis Bodies. The peculiar structure known as the asbestosis body or "ourious body" is a specific concomitant of asbestosis^(1,6,7). The typical body is a golden-yellow, beaded or haustrated rod which may be either straight or curved (figs. 2 and 3). Often one or both ends are bulbous like a dumb-bell. The bodies vary considerably in length, and dimensions up to 260 microns have been recorded.

It is believed that asbestosis bodies are due to a deposit of protein and iron pigment of tissue origin upon the surface of inhaled fibers

6. Cloyne, S.R.: The Formation of the Asbestosis Body in the Lung. Tubercle 12: 398, 1931.

7. Cloyne, S.R.: The Asbestosis Body. Lancet, 1361, June 26, 1932.