

MAXWELL BOROW, M.D., F.A.C.S.
515 CHURCH STREET
BOUND BROOK, N. J.
08805
TELEPHONE 356-0770

GENERAL AND THORACIC SURGERY

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BY APPOINTMENT

Mr. Jack W. Clark
Box 110, Rt. 1
Rockdale, Texas

Dear Mr. Clark:

I thank you for your letter regarding the dangers of working with asbestos in an unvented shop. In this situation I think there would be a very definite hazard, particularly since you are working with asbestos fiber. Even if the shop were vented, the chances of you inhaling this fiber, particularly if any of it is being ground and gets into the air, would be very great. I would recommend your wearing an appropriate mask at all times when doing this type of work. There are many masks available but I cannot tell you which is the most efficient for this purpose; however, you might contact the Johns-Manville Corp., Manville, N. J. who supply all their workers with such masks. I would also recommend that you get yearly chest x-rays and have such x-rays read by somebody experienced with the x-ray picture of pulmonary asbestosis.

There are many people who have this lung condition but never develop a malignancy, so that actually the risk of cancer developing in the presence of asbestosis is quite small. However, the pulmonary asbestosis, that is asbestos in the lung, in itself can be serious in later years and cause a lot of scarring of the lung and might lead to the individual being a respiratory cripple. I hope I have answered some of your questions.

Very truly yours


Maxwell Borow, M.D.

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