X-RAY ABNORMALITIES

Tables 8a and 8b list the averaged readings for the parenchymal X-ray abnormalities according to the ILO U/C International Classification of Pneumoconioses for the various asbestos-exposed groups established in this survey. Seven hundred and ninety-nine of 983 readable X-rays were classified as having 0/0 or 0/1 readings for parenchymal fibrosis. One hundred and seventy-seven were classified in category 1 (1/0-1/2) and seven were classified as having 2/1-2/3 abnormalities. Of those with normal pleura, 735 of 871 (84.5%) were also normal for parenchymal changes. For those with abnormal pleura, the percentage with normal parenchyma was much less. Only 64 of 113 (56.6%) of the readings were categorized as 0/0 or 0/1.

Tables 9a and 9b list the pleural abnormalities according to the severity (extent and thickness) of pleural thickening and whether or not calcification or pleural plaques were seen. The greatest proportion of pleural abnormalities consisted of pleural thickening (89 of 113). Pleural calcification was seen only infrequently, being identified on only 12 X-rays, including eight for which pleural thickening was also noted. Pleural plaques were seen on 38 X-rays, including 16 for which pleural thickening was also identified and one with pleural calcification. The degree of pleural abnormalities was relatively minor. Of those with pleural thickening, 42 had the lowest category of extent and thickness (A/1). Twenty-nine were categorized as either A/2 or B/1. The more severe examples of pleural thickening were largely confined to individuals who had either direct asbestos exposure or had previously been employed in shipyards.

Tables 10 and 11 list the percentages in the different occupational categories according to the type(s) of X-ray abnormality. As can be seen from Table 11, the percentage with any abnormality among those with garage employment is 24.2% compared to 18.8% among individuals with no stated asbestos exposure or garage employment. Corresponding percentages for parenchymal abnormalities are 19.0% vs. 15.3% and for pleural abnormalities 8.4% vs. 8.9%, respectively for those with garage