

series, lung tissue or sputum was available for examination. In 30 (62.5 percent), either asbestosis or the presence of asbestos bodies was noted.

Mesothelioma is now considered a frequent cause of death among asbestos workers. No attempt has been made to summarize the reports of mesothelioma, since they appear almost weekly in the current literature. So far, however, there appear to be few cases among the general population. Selikoff¹⁹⁸ reviewed 31,652 deaths among the general population of over 1,048,183 in the United States and found only three cases of mesothelioma. Moreover, he¹⁹⁵ points out that asbestos is not the only cause of mesothelioma; it has also been produced by silica²²⁴ and polyurethane.¹⁰⁷

2.1.3.3 Other Cancers

Extrapulmonary cancer has also been noted as a cause of death among asbestos workers. Kogan et al.¹³² in 1966 reported 14 cases (31.1 percent), 11 women and 3 men. Four of the women died of uterine cancer, two of intestinal cancer, two of breast cancer, and one of liver cancer. Among the men, one died of stomach cancer, another of cancer of the urinary bladder, and a third of cancer of the prostate. Other cases of extrapulmonary cancer have been cited in Section 2.1.3.2.

2.1.3.4 Synergism

While the exact cause of lung cancer or pleural peritoneal mesothelioma induced by asbestos is not known, air pollution by

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