

in the lung, it appears as though other histological factors would contribute to the development of cancer. One indication of this is the increased tendency toward growth in the tissue. To name a few, we can speak of extensive epithelial desquamation with alteration of the shapes of epithelial cells, formation of numerous macrophages and giant foreign body cells, as well as proliferation of the connective tissue. Thereupon, as mentioned by Linzbach, the various tissues are released from their normal condition without the injury to the tissue being extensive enough for the cell to collapse. This increased tendency toward regeneration and the disorder of normal tissue conditions can probably be considered as promoting factors in the development of cancer.

These theories also apply to pleural growth. The pleura is involved in the decomposition process. Here we find epithelial desquamation, fibrin deposits, regeneration of the connective tissue, cornification and accumulation of asbestos crystals and asbestos particles (Gloyne, et al.).

All these theories are based on statistical figures and constitute valid arguments in support of the inner correlation between asbestosis and lung cancer.

In addition to the increased incidence of cancer in asbestosis patients, we also require proof of the reproducibility of the conditions through animal experimentation. As yet, this point could not be proven in the case of asbestosis. This, however, is not based on negative results of experiments performed, but rather simply due to the fact that this question has not as yet been addressed to any significant degree. The first experiments were performed by Nordmann and Sorge, who obtained astoundingly similar results. These were already mentioned in the previous paragraphs. For more certainty, however, it will be necessary to obtain further confirmation and recognition of this complex correlation from other specialists.

Nevertheless, all the observations made up to now tend to indicate with all probability that Nordmann's theory on occupational cancer in asbestos workers is a valid one. Other authors such as Gloyne, Lynch and Smith, Ebert and Geiger, as well as Linzbach, also tend to take a correlation of the cause into consideration. No attempt has yet been made from any side to deny this assumption.

If we now attempt to determine the origin of the carcinogenic effect of asbestos particles, we must differentiate between general and local promoting factors. We can generally assume that the occurrence of cancer is usually due to an inclination (predisposition) toward this disease. Just where we should look for the answer for this is difficult to say. We know from general human experimental pathology that predisposition toward cancer is dependent upon systemic factors. This is particularly evident by the fact that under identical experimental conditions and fairly similar exposure to carcinogenic hazards, only a number of the endangered persons do actually suffer from cancer. The available asbestosis-related observation material is not sufficient to allow us to perform an analysis of familiar carcinogenic conditions.