

These numbers clearly show that lung cancer is the most frequent complication with asbestosis, if heart insufficiencies and fatal pneumonias are disregarded. Even tuberculosis, which usually surpasses cancer in frequency, in this case clearly falls behind lung cancer. This provides an important proof for the close link behind lung cancer. It is striking that the percentage of today, gained from the more extensive material, coincides exactly with the numbers that Nordmann had gained earlier from a much smaller amount of observation material.

Abroad, the conditions pertaining to this, are up to now, as follows: In this area, the British have most experience. But according to the English literature, which is diverse, because some of the individual cases have been published several times, unfortunately it is not possible to list the individual cases as we did above. Till further developments take place, the numbers provided by Gloyne have to suffice. He observed six cases of lung cancer (one probably a pleural tumor) in 50 dissections. This shows a frequency of lung cancer in association with asbestosis at 12%. The numbers from the US. are very similar. I have found in the literature up to 1939, 13 cases of dissection. This number is probably not quite complete, since some studies were not accessible to me. Among these dissected asbestoses I found two bronchial cancers, which were listed above. This would correspond to a percentage of approximately 15%. There was not any mention of a different organ cancers. Relatively frequent (four times) is the pneumonia as given cause of death. Strangely enough, there is no report pertaining to this matter from France.

And just as little was published about this problem in other countries. In Italy, where asbestosis is a very well known disease, no case of pulmonary cancer has been observed (Vigliani and others).

Therefore, in the world literature, we see so far 14 malignant pulmonary-pleural tumors of epithelial origin, which came from 92 sections. This means approximately 16% cases of cancers in dissected asbestosis.

Of these 14, only eleven have so far been described in detail so that statistical results could be gained from them, (cf. chart 2). The distribution according to sex shows seven men and four women. The ages are between 35-71 years. Four are in the relatively young age group of 35 to 41.

In all cases the time between the beginning of the employment to the occurrence of the cancer is relatively long (between 12 and 42 years). If the exposure to the dust was short, usually a longer dust-free interval will follow, which seems to prove that the effect of the dust will if at all, lead only gradually to an occurrence of cancer.

The majority of the affected patients had a bad asbestosis without it having to be obligatory in this form.

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