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STUDENT MANUAL

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INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

by

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Other investigators[86, 87] have found no benefit beyond the psychologic lift given the workers with silicosis (boost in morale from the use of the dusting equipment, reassurance that something was being done for them). A large number of subjects have inhaled aluminum dust without reported harm. Its actual usefulness, once silicotic changes have appeared in the lungs, is unproved.

6) Chief occupational hazards for silicosis:[81]

a. Mining of hard siliceous rock (copper, gold, silver, zinc, iron and hard coal)

b. Quarrying of granite, sandstone, quartz, slate rock, and crystal

c. Ceramic industries - pottery making

d. Glass manufacturing

e. Abrasives

f. Stone-finishing

g. Construction work (tubes, tunnels, aqueducts, etc.)

c. Asbestosis

The occupational fibrosis which results from the inhalation of asbestos fibers is due chiefly to the mechanical plugging of the alveoli or in the formation of fibrotic sleeves along the terminal bronchioles. The condition has been noted in workers mining and crushing crude asbestos. In 1940 Gardner stated that 27 per cent of workers so exposed had lung x-ray changes. In those with more than 15 years exposure the percentage rose to 60.[83] The characteristic x-ray finding is the so-called "ground glass" appearance which differs from the nodular pattern of silicosis.

Lynch and Cannon[88] described the characteristic lesion in 40 necropsied cases as an "asbestosis body" consisting of a central asbestos fiber with a shiny yellow-brown coating, found in terminal bronchioles and peribronchial lymph nodes. Some of these bodies may appear in the sputum. A feature of the disease in advanced form was pleural thickening with some adhesive obliteration of the pleural spaces. In 8 cases there was nodular fibrosis of the lungs, in 6 some form of active pulmonary tuberculosis, and in 3 carcinoma of the lung.

Behrens[89] stated that postmortem reports from the literature indicate that in 309 cases of asbestosis there were 44 lung carcinomas (14.2%), whereas in 2,204 cases of silicosis only 32 carcinomas were found (1.4%). Pulmonary tuberculosis is less often associated with asbestosis than it is with silicosis.