

asbestosis and pleural plaques with the local situation of the individual asbestos firms. It seems that the lighter, shorter, more easily flying fibers can pass the lungs without reaction, as per the tests by Vorwald and Associates, and can cause plaques and pleura mesotheliomas in the sense of Kiviluoto's theory. Leicher places the main responsibility for the occurrence of tumors in asbestosis on the mechanical lesions of the tissue. The long latency times could be explained with the continuous slight mechanical effect. Animal tests confirm the oncogenic effect of the asbestos. There were several occurrences where through intra-pleural application of suspension of asbestos dust pleural mesotheliomas were created. (Wagner) The studies and reports in the literature allow the conclusion that job-related cancer of the asbestos workers. It seems justified to include this tumor, with existing asbestosis, in the compensation obligation according to number 28 of our regulations about information and compensation obligations for job-related diseases from November 14, 1957. The conditions do not yet seem to be given under which it would be recognized as a job-related disease, for those cases where, after exposure, no lung fibrosis or only asbestos particles could be proven. We think, further, that extensive studies and discussions are necessary, the same for the problem of the bronchial carcinoma and asbestos exposure without lung fibrosis in the sense of only a slight asbestosis. In any case, Bohlig is justified in pointing out that the existence of pleural reactions without lung fibrosis opens new ideas about the pathogenesis of the asbestosis and about the discussion of the job-related cancer of the asbestos workers, and opens new perspectives which may even appear somewhat heretic. Furthermore, the risk through emission in the neighboring environment of the asbestos factories has gained further relevance.

Summary

Out of 44 cases of diffuse malignant pleural mesotheliomas, 35 were studied in a detailed analysis. In 18 cases an exposure to asbestos could be proven, either job-related or outside the job. In eleven cases, fibrotic reactions of the lungs and asbestos particles were found in the sections.