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Received for publication May 17, 1973  
Accepted for publication July 20, 1973

If the two opinions lead to a blank entry above then the specimen should be sent to the two other readers and a combined diagnosis made on the basis of four readings. There are many possibilities from four readings but the combined diagnosis should follow the majority if there is a clear one and otherwise be undecided. The following rule is sufficient to determine all cases of four readings: score a definite as 1 point, probable as  $\frac{1}{2}$ , possible as 0, not as -1; then add up the four scores and if the total is greater than or equal to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  the diagnosis is Definite, between -1 and +1 inclusive it is Undecided, less than or equal to -1 is Not a mesothelioma.

#### Addendum

The Mesothelioma Register, which in 1967 and 1968 recorded cases from all available sources, has since continued with notifications of deceased cases only. The following table gives details of notifications (subject to confirmation) for the years up to 1971, figures for the years 1967 and 1968 being included on a similar basis for comparison.

#### NOTIFICATIONS TO THE MESOTHELIOMA REGISTER (DEATH CASES) 1967-71

| Sources of notification             | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Death certificate                   | 91   | 189  | 126  | 163  | 124  |
| Cancer Registry <sup>1</sup>        | 39   | 28   | 20   | 11   | 11   |
| Industrial injury data <sup>2</sup> | 3    | 3    | 6    | 3    | —    |
| Other                               | 30   | 13   | 5    | 5    | 3    |
| Total                               | 163  | 233  | 157  | 184  | 138  |

<sup>1</sup>Not so certified at death

<sup>2</sup>Not on death certificate or cancer registration

In the short period studied it is not possible to observe a significant trend. The large number of cases notified in 1968 may have resulted from the publicity and vigilance generated by the survey. If the impression of a falling off in notifications is confirmed then whether this will be due to a change in the prevalence of the disease or to a change in vigilance will require to be evaluated.

#### APPENDIX

##### The UICC Panel of Pathologists and diagnostic criteria

A British panel of pathologists specializing in the diagnosis of mesothelial tumours was formed unofficially in 1963 and consisted of Dr. K. F. W. Hinson, Dr. F. Whitwell, Professor W. F. E. McCaughey, and Dr. J. C. Wagner.

From 1963 to 1967 all cases were examined by all members of the panel and a majority opinion was arrived at. Subsequently the panel was constituted as a UICC panel. From 1967 panellists decided whether the diagnosis was definitely mesothelioma, definitely not mesothelioma or whether there was insufficient histological material, only referring material to another member or members of the panel in case of doubt. After mid-1968 the policy was adopted that all cases referred to the panel should be seen by at least two members and that if there was a difference of opinion a third opinion should be sought. In mid-1971 the following protocol was designed for combined panel diagnosis. Two opinions are necessary for diagnosis and these two opinions should be combined as below:

| First opinion |                       | Second opinion |           |           |     |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
|               |                       | Definite       | Probable  | Possible  | Not |
| First opinion | Definite mesothelioma | Definite       | Definite  | —         | —   |
|               | Probable mesothelioma | Definite       | Undecided | Undecided | —   |
|               | Possible mesothelioma | —              | Undecided | Undecided | Not |
|               | Not a mesothelioma    | —              | —         | Not       | Not |

## Mortality in asbestos miners

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