

...small amount of working material.

Around the status of this question is as follows:

The English are the most experienced in this field. However, according to English documentation, this experience unfortunately does not lend itself to the study of individual observations. This is due to the fact that it is very complex, since some individual cases have been published more than once, and cannot be traced individually. For the time being, we shall have to accept the figures produced by Cloyne based on 79 autopsies of asbestosis carriers (according to Reader), during which he observed 6 cases of lung cancer (probably with pleural growth). This gives us a lung cancer incidence of 12% in asbestosis patients.

Very similar figures were obtained from the United States. I was able to collect 13 autopsy cases in U.S. literature up to 1939. This figure is probably not totally accurate, since there were a few works which I was unable to obtain. Among these autopsy cases of asbestosis, I encountered 2 cases of bronchial cancer, which we have already mentioned. This corresponds to a percentage figure of about 15%. There was no mention of any other types of organic cancer. Pneumonia was quite often reported (4 times) as the cause of death.

Absolutely no relevant data is available from France on this subject.

Other countries also reported little on the subject.

In Italy, where asbestosis is well-known, no cases of lung cancer have yet been reported (Vigliani et al.).

In world-wide literature, we therefore find 14 cases of malignant lung and pleural growths of epithelial origin out of 92 autopsies performed. The incidence of lung cancer in autopsied cases of asbestosis is therefore around 16%.

Of these 14 cases, only 11 have as yet been described in detail, so that additional statistical data still remains to be obtained (see Table 2).

A breakdown by sex gives us 7 males and 4 females.

The ages lie between 35 and 71 years of age.

Only 4 are between the relatively young ages of 35 and 41.

The period between employment and the development of cancer is always relatively long (between 12-42 years). Short term exposure to the dust is generally followed by a long dust-free interval, which would tend to indicate that the action of the dust, if there be such, gradually leads to the development of cancer.