

A series of 83 patients from the London Hospital with a diagnosis of mesothelioma (confirmed by necropsy or biopsy) were studied by Newhouse and Thompson¹⁷⁶ for possible exposure to asbestos. The series consisted of 41 men and 42 women; 27 of the patients had peritoneal and 56 pleural tumors. Although the earliest death recorded from this group was in 1917, only 10 patients died before 1950, while 40 (48 percent) died between 1960 and 1964. In 76 of the 83 cases, full occupational and residential histories were obtained. Forty patients (52.6 percent) had a history of occupational exposure to asbestos or of domestic exposure (living in the house with an asbestos worker). In comparison, only 11.8 percent (9 of 76) of the patients from the same hospital suffering from other diseases had previous exposure to asbestos. There was also evidence that neighborhood exposures may be important. Among those in this study with no history of occupational or domestic exposures to asbestos, 30.6 percent of the mesothelioma patients and 7.6 percent of the inpatients with other diseases lived within half a mile of an asbestos factory. Of the 31 patients with occupational exposures to asbestos, only 10 held jobs scheduled under the British Asbestos Regulations of 1931. The interval between first exposure and the development of the terminal illness from mesothelioma ranged between 16 and 55 years. The duration of exposure varied widely, ranging from two months to over 50 years. In 47 patients in this mesothelioma

8000 1427