

with the material used for treatment. Moreover Nicholson et al (1972) also found fibres in approximately one third of samples from two sets of 17 widely used parenteral drugs, e.g. various antibiotics, cortisone, sodium acetazolamide. In addition talc is often used as an excipient; so drugs may contain asbestos fibres. Moreover, one should be also concerned about contamination of illicit drugs. No malignancies, apparently due to this parenteral exposure, have been reported; however, it might be regarded as extremely difficult to establish such an association in isolated individual cases. An extensive study of the presence of asbestos fibres in drugs, as used in the EEC, appears to be needed. In surgery it has been proposed to sprinkle the surface of the lung after pleurectomy with powdered asbestos, in order to produce vascularization; however, Planteydt (1966) quite rightly sounded a serious note of caution; the procedure is very similar to the one used to induce mesotheliomas in animal experiments.

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