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Peritoneal mesothelioma in a 17-year-old boy

with evidence of previous exposure to chrysotile and tremolite asbestos.

Abstract: We describe a case of malignant peritoneal mesothelioma arising in a 17-year-old boy. The diagnosis was based on a comprehensive study including light microscopy, histochemistry, immunohistochemistry, evaluation of the clinical course, and autopsy examination. Analytical transmission electron microscopy showed a concentration of 510,000 asbestos fibers/g dry lung tissue. The fibers were represented by chrysotile (62%) and tremolite (38%) asbestos. About 40% of the total fibers were longer than 5 microns. The presence of tremolite fibers was probably due to environmental exposure to contaminated cosmetic talc. This is the first reported case of pathologically proven exposure to asbestos dust in malignant mesothelioma of childhood and adolescence.

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