

1 Q Is that an uncommon occurrence in cases of
2 mesothelioma, Doctor?

3 A Well, I think in 1980 it was not uncommon.
4 In the 1990s, more commonly, physicians are aware of
5 the association of asbestos and mesothelioma and more
6 commonly take down a history, but I think at that time
7 it was not uncommon.

8 Q Now, from your review of the medical
9 records, how did Mr. Vandergucht -- what caused him to
10 go to the hospital?

11 A He had what they thought was an umbilical
12 hernia. His umbilicus or belly button had a
13 protrusion from it, and it was thought that there was
14 an outpouching of the peritoneum there with intestines
15 or whatever being able to move through that pouching.

16 That is why he went to the doctor. That
17 umbilical hernia was treated by surgery and was cut
18 out, and the surgeon at that time noted that the
19 underlying tissue was hard and thickened, but at that
20 time the surgeon did not recognize that it was
21 cancerous until it was sent to the Pathology