Once the correlation between lung asbestosis and lung cancer was made known (Gloyne, Lynch and Smith), several cases of lung carcinoma in conjunction with asbestosis (LCA) have been observed in Germany since the year 1938 (Nordmann, Linzbach and Wedler, Welz, Boemke, Jacob and Bohlig). Since then LCA is mentioned in the German literature as one of the most frequently observed complications (Holstein) of asbestosis. Still, only 16 cases of malignant tumors of the thoracic cavity in conjunction with lung asbestosis were published in Germany prior to 1954 (Jacob and Bohlig).

In the city of Dresden in 1956, a fifth case of LCA (63-year-old male, asbestosis I, small cell carcinoma of right upper lung) came to us for autopsy (Scheid, written report 1956). One additional case of LCA was described by Bohme in Bochum (written report 1957) and autopsied but not published by di Biasi so that between the years 1938 and 1956, 18 cases of LCA were observed in Germany. This is a fairly small number if we consider that this was for a period of 20 years and for a total number of approximately 4000 German asbestos workers at that time.

The LCA incidence which is considered to be high is exclusively based on autopsy statistics obtained from the literature (Behrens). The figures quoted ranged between 12 and 17% (literature by Jacob and Bohlig). Still the highest incidence is reported in England (Doll). Over a period of 10 years, Cartier observed in Canada eight cases of lung cancer among asbestos workers, including three which were not accompanied by asbestosis. Few cases have been reported in the United States. The