FILE NAME: Industrial Hygiene Foundation (IHF)

DATE: 1957 Aug 23

DOC#: IHF076

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Johns-Manville

August 23, 1957

Mr. Hugh M. Jackson, Manager
Industrial Health Program
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Hugh:

Thank you for your letter of August 19 regarding the September meeting of the ATI.

As a matter of fact, having completed the literature search, it is apparent to us that the possibility of an association between lung cancer and asbestosis is much more likely to exist in asbestos factories than in mining operations. For example, of 99 cases which had been reported up to 1955, at least 80 appear to have occurred in asbestos workers other than miners. A number were women, and the occupations given were: weaver, carder, mattress maker, lagger, bagger, pipe coverer, spinner, etc.

Two specific articles which mention the type of exposure and the job is that by Doll (1) and that by Isselbacher, et. al. (2). Seventeen cases studied by Gloyne and 31 reported by Merewether, as well as three mentioned by Harrison and one each by Cureton and Owen occurred in England. If my information is correct, there is no mining of asbestos in England, and these must all have been workers in textile or similar jobs. In this country, the ten cases reported were apparently all in textile workers. The first case, reported in 1935 by Lynch and Smith was a weaver in an asbestos factory for 21 years. Isselbacher's cases involved a contractor's helper engaged in cutting and sawing asbestos board and sorter in an asbestos mill.

The QAMA study is in the final stages which are, of course, the slowest. All of the statistical analysis has been completed, and the report is 99% written. What remains is mainly minor revisions, typing the manuscript and proofing. It should go to the print shop by the end of this month.

I hope this supplies you with what you need for the meeting. If there is anything further, please let me know and I will try to get it to you in time.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel C. Braun, M.D.
Medical Director

DCB:la

Enclosure

References

1. Doll, R.: Mortality from Lung Cancer in Asbestos Workers. Brit. J. Indust. Med. 12, 81-86, 1955.

2. Isselbacher, K. J.; Klaus, H.; and Hardy, H. L.: Asbestosis and Bronchogenic Carcinoma. Am. J. Med. 15, 721-732, November 1953.

3. Doll, R.: Bronchial Carcinoma: Incidence and Aetiology (Milroy Lectures, abridged) Brit. M. J., 2, 521-527, Sept. 5, 1953; 585-590, Sept. 12, 1953.