

Mesothelioma & Veterans

Veterans are significantly affected by mesothelioma. They account for 30% of all mesothelioma diagnoses due to widespread asbestos use during military service from 1930 to 1980.

What is Mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is a rare and aggressive cancer that primarily affects the lining of the lungs (pleural mesothelioma) or other organs like the abdomen (peritoneal mesothelioma). It is closely linked to asbestos exposure.

Why Veterans?

Asbestos was commonly used in various branches of the military, leading to exposure among service members:

- Army: Asbestos was used in barracks, vehicles and planes.
- Marines: Barracks, ships and vehicles all contained asbestos.
- Navy: Boilers, steam pipes and turbines used in shipbuilding contained asbestos.
- Air Force: Asbestos was present in plane engines, brakes and insulation.

Remember that early detection and timely intervention are crucial for managing pleural mesothelioma. If you suspect exposure to asbestos or experience symptoms, seek medical evaluation promptly.

Pleural Mesothelioma

What is?

Specific type of mesothelioma that affects the lining of the lungs.

Causes and Risk Factors:

- Asbestos Exposure: The primary cause of pleural mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos fibers.
- Inhalation: When asbestos fibers are inhaled, lead to inflammation and eventually cancer.

Symptoms:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain, Persistent cough, Fatigue

As the disease progresses, symptoms may worsen:

- Unexplained weight loss, Difficulty swallowing, Coughing up blood, Hoarseness