

HOW MESOTHELIOMA DEVELOPS

WHAT IS MESOTHELIOMA?

- Cancer of the **mesothelium** (surrounding tissues) of the **lungs and/or abdomen**
- Uniquely linked with **asbestos exposure**
- Develops **15-50 years after exposure**
- Most common types are **pleural (lungs)** and **peritoneal (abdomen) mesothelioma**

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

- Naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is a recognized **carcinogen**
- Once valued as a **fire and chemical resistant material**, it was widely used in the construction, automotive, military, marine, and manufacturing industries
- When it is cut or crushed, the **fibers** can be inhaled or ingested



HOW SMALL IS ASBESTOS?

2 grains of rice

20,000 microscopic asbestos fibers

5 human hairs



If you have been diagnosed with mesothelioma, O'Brien Law Firm will provide a full case evaluation at **no cost or obligation to you**. Contact us today.



Your lungs are covered and lubricated by the **mesothelium**, which is a thin membrane lining. In the chest, this membrane is called the **pleura**. In the abdomen, it is called the **peritoneum**. This is similar to how a car engine is protected by the hood.

your lungs
your pleura



inhaled or ingested asbestos fibers

cilia
pleura

Cilia are tiny hair-like projections that line the throat. They are one of the body's **natural defense mechanisms**, meant to push out harmful debris. **Asbestos can bypass cilia**, make its way to the periphery of the lung, and lodge itself in the mesothelium.

scarring on the pleural membrane formed as a result of irritation to tissues

over time, irritated and scarred tissue is more susceptible to developing cancerous cells

peritoneal mesothelioma (cancer)

peritoneum

pleural mesothelioma (cancer)

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