Mesothelioma

A tumor of the tissue that lines the lungs, stomach, heart, and other organs.

**Very rare**
Fewer than 20,000 US cases per year

- Requires a medical diagnosis
- Lab tests or imaging always required

Cancerous (malignant) mesothelioma is the most common form, usually affecting the lungs.

A cough, chest pain, and shortness of breath are symptoms.

Treatment may include surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. Supportive treatments can relieve symptoms.

**Ages affected**

- 0-2
- 3-5
- 6-13
- 14-18
- 19-40
- 41-60
- 60+

**Symptoms**

- Requires a medical diagnosis

A cough, chest pain, and shortness of breath are symptoms.

- **People may experience:**
  - **Pain areas:** in the chest or rib
  - **Whole body:** fatigue, loss of appetite, or night sweats
  - **Gastrointestinal:** bloating or nausea
  - **Also common:** coughing, lump, shortness of breath, or weight loss
Treatments
Treatment may include surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. Supportive treatments can relieve symptoms.

Prescription
Chemotherapy regimen by injection: Carboplatin, Cisplatin (Platinol-AQ), Pemetrexed, Gemcitabine (Gemzar), Doxorubicin (Adriamycin)
Other treatments: Vinorelbine by injection (Navelbine), Talc by injection (Sclerosol)

Also common
Procedures: Pleurodesis, Thoracotomy, Video-Assisted thoracoscopic surgery, Decortication, Radiation therapy, Pneumonectomy, Removal of fluid between the lungs and the chest, Pericardial window
Other treatments: Pemetrexed-Cisplatin regimen

Specialists
Radiologist: Uses images to diagnose and treat disease within the body.
Oncologist: Specializes in cancer.
Palliative medicine: Focuses on improving quality of life for terminally ill patients.
Thoracic surgeon: Performs surgery to treat chest and lung diseases.
Pulmonologist: Treats respiratory tract diseases.
Occupational medicine doctor: Prevents and treats illness in the workplace.

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or an emergency number immediately.