

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



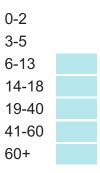
Lab tests or imaging always required

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



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

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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 a emergency number immediately.

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