

# 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 a emergency number immediately.