

Molly Reddington

Abstract

Asbestos is the only established cause of mesothelioma; however, not all cases of mesothelioma were exposed to asbestos. There is a great need to fill this gap through research into the other risk factors for this disease and how they may work synergistically to cause mesothelioma. The problem is a current lack of understanding into the causality of this disease. It is time to shift the focus from treatment to prevention of mesothelioma. In order to contribute to our current knowledge on the causality of this disease, I will complete my thesis in three sections: 1) a thorough literature review on all that is currently known about risk factors for mesothelioma, 2) a clinical case of the patient John J. Reddington Jr. and 3) a meta-analysis on the risk factors for which there is currently sufficient data to be analyzed. The results I intend to produce will provide clearer understandings of the significance and true impact of each risk factor for this disease, and more information on possible synergisms. The results will help to direct future researchers in the field of mesothelioma toward whichever risk factors, or synergisms of factors, seem to contribute the most to the development of this fatal cancer.