

NEW MESOTHELIOMA TREATMENT

Approved by the **FDA**

It's no secret that exposure to asbestos has the potential to cause medical issues.



Asbestos fibers are highly resistant to:



Heat and Flame



Electricity



Acid



Pressure/Sound



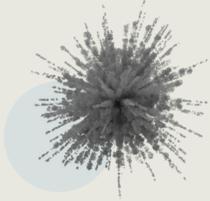
Corrosion



Evaporation

Asbestos fibers are microscopic and have no taste or smell.

A person can easily breathe or swallow asbestos fibers without knowing.



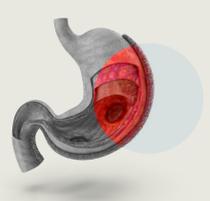
Asbestos fibers are extremely sharp and durable.

Once they are breathed or swallowed, asbestos fibers get stuck in the body

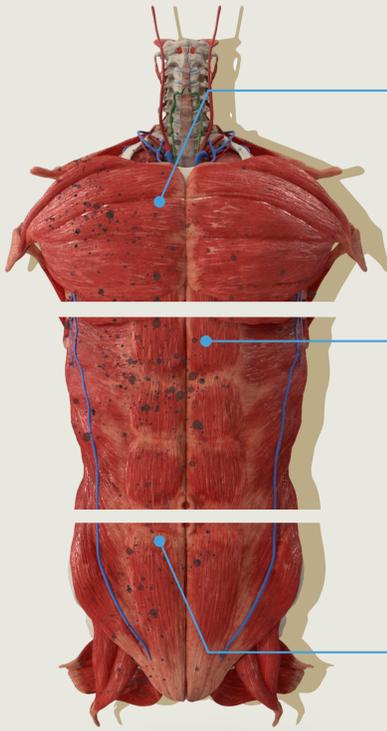


Asbestos fibers are microscopic and have no taste or smell.

Over time asbestos fibers **damage** and **scar** human tissue, leading to [asbestos-related illnesses](#), including **cancer**.



*One type of asbestos-related cancer is called **Mesothelioma**. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) says that 20,000 Americans are diagnosed with malignant pleural mesothelioma annually.¹*



Mesothelioma is cancer of the **mesothelium**, a thin layer of tissue surrounding the body's organs.

Symptoms of Mesothelioma include:

- ⊙ Persistent cough
- ⊙ Shortness of breath
- ⊙ Trouble swallowing
- ⊙ Hoarseness
- ⊙ Swollen face or arms
- ⊙ Lower back or chest pain

Mesothelioma is a highly aggressive and painful cancer caused almost exclusively by asbestos exposure.

"It is widely accepted that malignant pleural mesothelioma can develop 40-50 years after the first exposure to higher concentrations of the asbestos dust, even if the exposure was very short."²

Fortunately, the FDA has approved a new medicinal combination therapy that offers some hope for improved survival.

Here are some key facts to know.



The new mesothelioma therapy combines two medicines: Opdivo (nivolumab) and Yervoy (ipilimumab)

Both are monoclonal antibodies.

In combination, they have been proven to decrease tumor growth by enhancing T-cell function.



The combination therapy is the first mesothelioma drug regimen approved

The FDA has only ever approved one other systemic therapy for mesothelioma.

-26%

Initial clinical trials demonstrated that the use of Opdivo + Yervoy reduced the risk of dying from mesothelioma by 26% less than platinum-based chemotherapy.



A new clinical trial is set to begin in January 2022 at the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center.

- ⊙ The trial will test the efficacy of using the combination therapy in conjunction with a surgical approach for peritoneal mesothelioma (abdominal cancer caused by ingesting asbestos fibers).
- ⊙ The trial will include approximately 40 patients
- ⊙ The trial is expected to take three years.

The European Commission has also granted approval for the combination therapy.³

The EC decision allows for the use of Opdivo + Yervoy in the 27 member states of the European Union (EU), as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.



Studies show there is no safe level of asbestos exposure, and people have developed asbestos-related illnesses

40 or **50**

after they were first exposed.^{4 5}

If you believe you have been exposed to asbestos in the past, or if you have symptoms of an [asbestos-related illness](#), contact a healthcare professional.

Treating asbestos-related illnesses can involve expensive hospital bills and medications, as well as lost wages and limitations in your lifestyle. But compensation is available for spouses, household members and others with illnesses affected by their secondary exposure to asbestos.⁶ Speak to an experienced [asbestos attorney](#) to understand your options.

¹ [FDA Approves Drug Combination for Treating Mesothelioma](#), FDA.gov (Oct. 2, 2020).

² Vujovič, M., Vukovič, J. and Beg-Zec, Z., 2003. [Malignant and non-malignant asbestos-related pleural and lung disease: 10-year follow-up study](#). Public Health, 44(5), pp.618-625.

³ [Bristol Myers Squibb Receives European Commission Approval for Opdivo \(nivolumab\) Plus Yervoy \(ipilimumab\) as First-Line Treatment for Unresectable Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma](#), www.bms.com (06/02/2021).

⁴ Lanphear, B.P. and Buncher, C.R., 1992. Latent period for malignant mesothelioma of occupational origin. JOM, 34(7), pp.718-721.

⁵ Pierce, J.S., McKinley, M.A., Paustenbach, D.J. and Finley, B.L., 2008. [An evaluation of reported no-effect chrysotile asbestos exposures for lung cancer and mesothelioma](#). Critical Reviews in toxicology, 38(3), pp.191-214.

⁶ Kelly, B., 2017. [Take-Home Toxin: Following Kesner's Lead and Creating a Consistent Framework for Determining Duty toward Victims of Secondary Asbestos Exposure](#). Md. L. Rev., 77, p.1166. In 1972, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) set up regulations on asbestos to protect workers and their families from being injured by asbestos. Many state and federal courts have said that these regulations are also to protect spouses and others exposed by coming into contact with the workers. Spouses have recovered money for injuries caused by their secondary asbestos exposure.

To learn more, [click here](#) →



AsbestosClaims.Law



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