

## Editorials

### Background Cases

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Mesothelioma is exclusively a cancer of the pleura and peritoneum. The tumor is often referred to as a sentinel disease for asbestos exposure, i.e. an epidemiologic marker for asbestos. However, such a description often has been misinterpreted to mean that the only risk factor for mesothelioma is asbestos. In fact, the most significant cause of the disease other than asbestos is spontaneous tumor formation.<sup>1</sup>

Of note, results of our postmortem studies reported in 1985<sup>2</sup> and 2019,<sup>3</sup> i.e. over 30 years apart, disclosed the presence of asbestos bodies in 33 and 48.5 per cent of the cases, respectively; none of them showed pathological features of asbestos related diseases. Importantly, such findings indicate the presence of asbestos fibers in the outdoor air and the asbestos tolerance of Thais, who may not have susceptibility genes, which have been reported to be present in other nationalities and races.<sup>4</sup>

#### References

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