

# Asbestos injuries:

## Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a rare cancer that is becoming increasingly common. Its main cause is exposure to asbestos and it most frequently starts in the lining of the lungs but can also start in the abdomen. In its early stages mesothelioma does not have many symptoms, these begin once the cancer has grown and presses on a nerve or body organ. Common symptoms include chest pain, shortness of breath, tiredness, weight loss and a persistent cough. Surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy can help to alleviate symptoms and research is continuing to improve prognosis.

## Lung cancer

Although both affecting the lungs, pleural mesothelioma and lung cancer are separate cancers which can be caused by asbestos exposure. Lung cancer originates in the lung tissue, as opposed to pleural mesothelioma which originates in the lung's outer lining. Symptoms are similar and include shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue and weight loss. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy are used to treat lung cancer and patients generally have a better survival rate than those with mesothelioma.

## Asbestosis

Asbestosis is a long-term lung condition caused by prolonged exposure to asbestos. Symptoms include shortness of breath, a persistent cough, fatigue and chest pain. There is no cure for asbestosis once it has developed and it can worsen over time, although in many cases the condition progresses very slowly or not at all. Those diagnosed with asbestosis however have a higher risk of developing pleural disease, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

## Pleural disease (pleural thickening/fibrosis and plaques)

Asbestos pleural diseases are similar to asbestosis but occur in the pleura, the thick lining between the lungs and chest wall. Diffuse scarring along the chest wall is known as 'pleural thickening' or fibrosis, while more defined scarring is known as 'pleural plaques'. Pleural plaques normally exhibit no symptoms, but thickening can result in shortness of breath and impair the lungs' function.

## Call us now

for a free, no obligation  
discussion

Call 01752 203500  
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## No win, no fee!



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# Asbestos illnesses

Let's fight them together



# Asbestos the silent assassin

Millions of people across the UK were exposed to asbestos, particularly in the 1950s, 60s and 70s where its use in industry was extensive. It was most prominently used in shipbuilding, the motor industry, power stations and the construction sector.

Even individuals who did not work with asbestos were exposed to it through fibres on the work clothes of family members, or inhalation if they lived near a factory where it was used. Exposure to asbestos can lead to a variety of serious health conditions, many of which will not surface until years after contact was made.

*"James made a traumatic time and events as easy as they could be, thank you"*

Ms W

*"A local industrial disease specialist, who in that line of work locally is peerless."*

The Legal 500 2021



## GA Solicitors can help

Thousands of people each year are diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease and it is the single biggest cause of work related deaths in the UK.

More than 4000 people each year lose their fight against the lasting effects of asbestos, while others try and find ways to lessen these effects and live with a much decreased lung capacity and an increasing need for care.

If you were exposed to asbestos dust and later developed an illness caused by this exposure, you or your family may be entitled to compensation and additional government support.

GA Solicitors' asbestos team has more than two decades of experience in this area and works alongside specialist medical and nursing experts. We can work on a no win, no fee basis and even seek to gain early payments to fund any necessary care, equipment or adaptations to your home. As we understand the process, we can also offer some guidance on additional state benefits to which you may be entitled.

With a professional yet sympathetic approach, our team of accredited legal experts will ensure you receive the highest levels of client service and the best possible result. We can also offer home visits if appropriate.

## GA's injury specialists

GA's specialist team has dealt with thousands of personal injury and asbestos-related claims. The team and its individuals are recognised nationally for their experience.



**James Walsh, partner**

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James is a leading industrial disease litigator with more than two decades of experience. He is recognised nationally for his experience in dealing with asbestos disease claims, in particular those related to dockyard mesothelioma victims. He is an accredited occupational disease and asbestos disease specialist with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers and listed in the Legal 500. James was President of Plymouth Law Society in 2020-21.



**Matthew Sheather, partner**

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Matthew is a partner and head of the personal injury team. He specialises in high value and catastrophic injury claims and has managed a significant number of cases, including asbestos disease claims. Matthew is a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers. He is listed in Chambers & Partners as a leader in his field.



**Harry Smyth, solicitor**

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Harry has more than two decades of experience in personal injury claims. He has previously worked for both regional law firms and insurance companies, giving him a detailed understanding of the personal injury sector from both the victim and insurer's perspective. He offers a sympathetic approach to victims whilst securing the best possible outcome.