Malignant pleural mesothelioma in bakers and pastry cooks.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: The occurrence of malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) among bakers and pastry cooks has never been documented.

CASE REPORTS: We detected eight cases of MPM in bakers, pastry cooks, and biscuit cooks engaged in making, baking/cooking, and selling pastry/bread in two hospital-based series (Rome and Orbassano/Turin, Italy; period 1990-1997; 222 cases). Field-investigations revealed asbestos-containing material (ACM) in ovens for baking bread, that were manufactured prior to the 1980s.

CONCLUSIONS: It is suggested that there is a possible new association of the risk of having worked as a baker or pastry cook and MPM. Presumptive source of exposure to asbestos was the use of asbestos-insulated ovens.

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PMID: 11598986 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]