

Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma

What is malignant pleural mesothelioma?

Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) is the most common type of mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer, caused primarily by exposure to asbestos^{1,2}



MPM affects the chest and lungs, and accounts for **90% of mesothelioma cases in the UK**²



There are two types of MPM, **non-epithelioid** and **epithelioid MPM**^{3,4}

80%

Exposure to asbestos in the workplace is **responsible for over 80% of MPM cases**⁵



Most patients are **men aged 50-89 at diagnosis**⁶



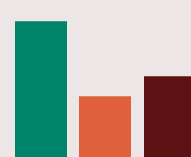
Prevalence

60% ↑

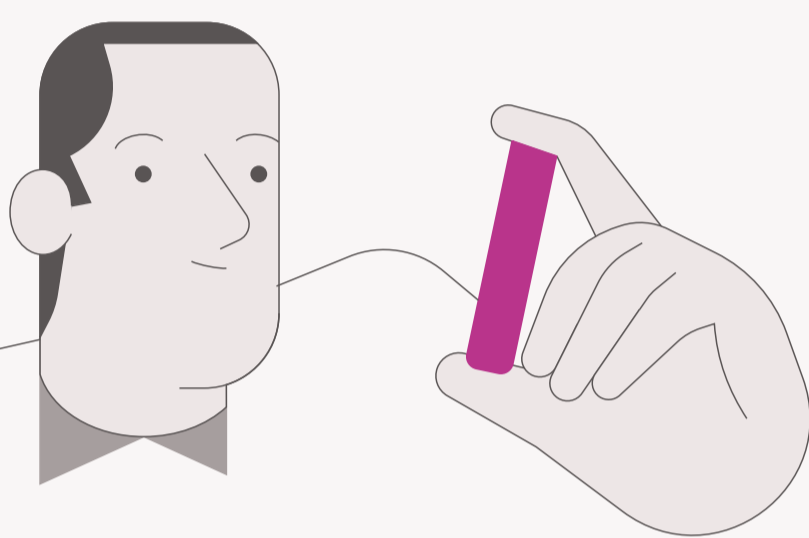
Rates of MPM have **increased by around 60%** since the early 1990s⁷, due to the heavy use of asbestos up until the 1970s⁸



The UK has the **highest mesothelioma mortality rates globally**⁹



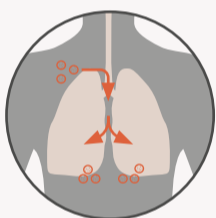
England has the highest mortality rates, compared to **Wales and Scotland**¹⁰



Across England there are regional disparities, with the **North-East, East and South East** experiencing the highest male mortality rates overall¹¹

What is asbestos?

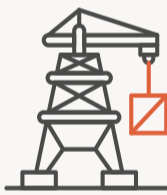
Asbestos is the name given to several naturally occurring fibrous minerals that were widely used for insulation of buildings, boilers, pipes, as well as in car brakes and floor tiles¹²



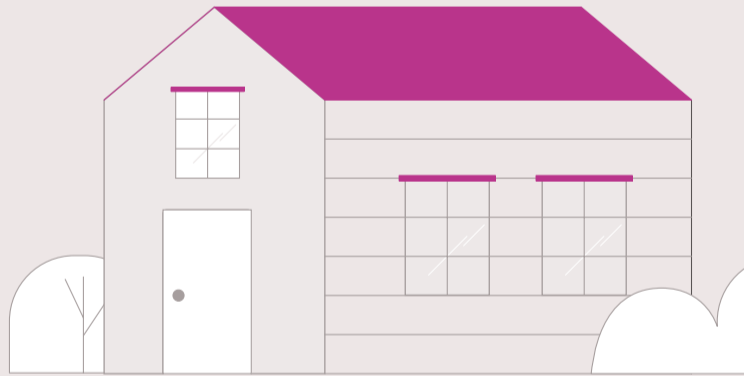
When fibres are inhaled, they travel through the airways of the lung and enter the pleural lining, where they cause chronic inflammation and scarring that can lead to MPM^{13,14}



All types of asbestos have been banned in the UK since 1999, but may still be present in buildings constructed before this.^{12,15} **The maintenance of buildings with asbestos and asbestos removal are now closely regulated**¹⁶



People with a history of working in construction and shipyards before the asbestos ban **have an increased risk of MPM due to their higher occupational risk of asbestos exposure**⁸



Symptoms

Symptoms are often lacking in the early stages of MPM, but can include:¹⁷



Chest pain



Loss of weight / appetite



Difficulty swallowing



Shortness of breath



A hoarse or husky voice



Persistent cough



Changes to finger or nail shape



High temperature



Fatigue



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