

## What Are Common Signs of Peritoneal Mesothelioma?

Peritoneal mesothelioma is a significant threat in the state of Pennsylvania. This is a malignant form of cancer that can encroach on the peritoneum, which is the thin membrane layer that lines the human abdomen. The primary cause of mesothelioma is asbestos ingestion.

It can form as a mass on the peritoneum in some instances, and in others, it will blanket the membrane. This is a form of cancer that can metastasize over time and spread to other parts of the body, so early detection is key.

It should be noted that this is just one area where mesothelioma can appear. In fact, 90 percent of mesothelioma cases impact other parts of the body.

## What Are the Symptoms of Peritoneal Mesothelioma?

Since this disease impacts the abdomen, the symptoms are similar to a number of other conditions, so it can be challenging for a non-specialist to diagnose.

One symptom is pain or tenderness in the abdominal area, and there can be swelling due to fluid retention. This is commonly referred to as ascites, which can also be a sign of liver or kidney failure and congestive heart failure.

People with peritoneal mesothelioma will often experience nausea and a loss of appetite, and there can be overall fatigue. Weight loss is another symptom along with irregular digestion that can come in the form of constipation or diarrhea.

Some individuals that have contracted this disease experience night sweats, and they may run a fever. If you think that you may have peritoneal mesothelioma, you should consult with a specialist that focuses on this particular area because of the diagnostic challenges.

## What Are the Diagnostic Steps?

When a mesothelioma specialist is assessing a patient's condition, they will do blood work and look for certain characteristics. They will utilize diagnostic imaging to determine if there are tumors present, biopsies are used to evaluate the exact nature of the cancerous cells.

Three-fourths of the cancerous tumors that are associated with peritoneal mesothelioma are Epithelioid cells, and the remainder of them are Biphasic cells.

## What Is Asbestos and Where Will You Find It?

Asbestos can be found in rocks and soil, and it is essentially a mineral fiber. It is sturdy, and it is very resistant to heat, so it has been widely used in the construction trade as a form of insulation. Asbestos is also fire retardant, and this adds to its usefulness for construction purposes.

In addition to insulation, vinyl floor tiles and roofing and siding shingles can contain asbestos, and it can be found in some paint products and compounds that are used to patch flat surfaces. These are a handful of the practical applications, and there are a number of others.

The utilization of asbestos for building purposes tapered off after the 1970s when the dangers came to light, but it is still out there, and vermiculate is a significant contributing factor.

Vermiculite is a lightweight mineral that can be an excellent form of insulation because it is fire resistant and it does not have an odor, but it is not a form of asbestos. However, there was a mine in Libby, Montana that produced the majority of the vermiculite that was used in America.

They began their dominance in 1919, and it lasted for some 70 years. The mine that was producing all of this vermiculite was full of asbestos contamination.

Most of it was marketed under the “Zonolite” brand, so this is a major source of asbestos contamination in homes and buildings.

How Does Peritoneal Mesothelioma Progress?

The fibers get into the air that you are breathing if you are in a contaminated environment. These fibers go through your digestive system, and they gather in the abdominal region.

Inflammation develops, fluid accumulates, and cancerous tumors take shape. Ultimately, the cancer will spread to consume the abdominal organs.

What Are the Stages of Peritoneal Mesothelioma?

There are three stages of peritoneal mesothelioma. Stage 1 mesothelioma is confined to the abdominal lining. There has been no encroachment elsewhere, including the lymph nodes. The quantity of cancerous tissue is very limited.

In Stage 2, there is still no migration, but the cancer cell growth is more expansive. A patient with Stage 3 peritoneal mesothelioma will have a great deal of cancerous tissue, and spreading beyond the abdominal membrane can be present.

Peritoneal Mesothelioma in Pennsylvania

When you think about mining in Pennsylvania, the coal mines in the western part of the state will invariably come to mind, but asbestos mining has been done in the state as well. There are also naturally occurring asbestos sites, and the state holds another ignominious distinction.

Ambler, Pennsylvania was known as the “Asbestos Capital of the World” after Richard Mattison, a doctor and pharmacist, presided over an asbestos textile empire in the city. He made a fortune churning out asbestos products for most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The shipbuilding industry is a source of asbestos contamination in the state, and it can be found in landfills, industrial sites, and power generating facilities. Pennsylvania got more than its fair share of contaminated vermiculite when it was being circulated, and this is another factor.

KCIC is a consulting firm that has compiled some detailed statistics about asbestos litigation.

They published a report in 2020, and it placed Philadelphia fourth among the leading jurisdictions for asbestos litigation in the United States. This list is for all asbestos claims, and the Philadelphia jurisdiction had the third highest number of mesothelioma claims.

## How Can You Sue for Peritoneal Mesothelioma Damages in Pennsylvania?

If you or someone in your family has been diagnosed with peritoneal mesothelioma, there is a good chance that you will have legal recourse. Clearly, there is no amount of money that can truly compensate for this type of loss, but negligent parties should be forced to pay a price.

You can potentially sue the manufacturer of a product that contained asbestos, and installation companies can also be held liable. Trust funds have been set up for victims of asbestos contamination, and insurance companies can be liable for damages in some instances.

It will take decades for the disease to develop after exposure to asbestos, so statutes of limitations are an important factor. State laws vary with regard to statutes of limitations, and in Pennsylvania, it is two years from the date of the disease diagnosis.

When a person has been diagnosed with peritoneal mesothelioma and there is a clear connection to asbestos exposure, the case will probably be settled out of court. This does not necessarily have to be a long and drawn out, contested process that is decided by a judge.

If your attorney is dealing with an asbestos trust fund that has been established by a company that filed bankruptcy, the claim can be resolved quickly and efficiently.

In addition to personal injury claims that are made by plaintiffs that are suffering from peritoneal mesothelioma, the estate of a deceased individual can file a wrongful death lawsuit. The estate of a deceased victim has up to two years to make a claim in Pennsylvania.

## What Is a Typical Mesothelioma Settlement or Judgment?

The settlement that you can receive from a mesothelioma claim will depend on many factors. Mesothelioma.com cites a number of different litigation studies, and they place the average between \$1 million and \$1.4 million.

## The Philadelphia Mesothelioma Lawyers at Brookman, Rosenberg, Brown & Sandler Can Handle Your Peritoneal Mesothelioma Case

You can rely on the Philadelphia mesothelioma lawyers at Brookman, Rosenberg, Brown & Sandler if you have been diagnosed with peritoneal mesothelioma, and we represent families that have wrongful death claims.

In addition to Philadelphia proper, we can be engaged by people in Delaware County, Chester County, and Philadelphia County in Pennsylvania, and we also assist people that live in New Jersey.

We offer free consultations, and you can set up an appointment right now if you give us a call at 800-369-0899 or 215-569-4000. If you would rather reach out electronically, fill out our [online contact form](#) and you can expect to receive a prompt response.

## References

EPA

<https://www.epa.gov/asbestos/learn-about-asbestos>

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

<https://www.ccpa.net/DocumentCenter/View/3079/Asbestos?bidId=>

Science History Institute

<https://www.sciencehistory.org/distillations/living-in-the-town-asbestos-built>

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/noa/docs/usamap.pdf>

KCIC Asbestos Report

[https://www.kcic.com/media/2153/kcic\\_asbestos2020report.pdf](https://www.kcic.com/media/2153/kcic_asbestos2020report.pdf)

Pennsylvania Code

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/CT/HTM/42/00.055.024.000..HTM>

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<https://www.mesothelioma.com/lawyer/compensation/settlements/>