

[Malignant Mesothelioma Treatments by Stage](#)

(Posted by Tom Lamb at www.AsbestosHUB.com on January 6, 2010; see <http://bit.ly/5uFwwc>)

Stage I Treatment Options

- Surgery to remove the pleura and surrounding tissue.
- Surgery to remove sections of the pleura, the lung, part of diaphragm, or lining around chest.
- External beam radiation therapy.
- Surgery, followed by chemotherapy.
- Surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy.

Stage II, III, and IV Treatment Options

- Drain fluid buildup from the chest or abdomen.
- Surgery.
- Radiation therapy.
- Chemotherapy.
- Surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy.
- Chemotherapy directed at chest or abdomen.

The treatment options are varied because the time between exposure to asbestos and onset of disease are so varied. There can be many years between exposure and disease. The earlier malignant mesothelioma is detected, the better the prognosis for successful treatment.

New treatments

In the July 15, 2003 issue of Journal of Clinical Oncology, an article by Laurie Barclay, M.D. discussed a new chemotherapy treatment option of combining pemetrexed (Alimta) and cisplatin. As of the date of Dr. Barclay's article, the drug combination was in phase III trial but the results look promising and, according to the author, follow-up trials are already being conducted using the pemetrexed and cisplatin combination, as well as another drug combination of pemetrexed plus gemcitabine.

In 2004, the [US FDA approved Alimta](#) (pemetrexed disodium), used in combination with cisplatin (Platinol®), for use as a chemotherapy treatment for malignant pleural mesothelioma. Alimta will be distributed by Eli Lilly.

The National Institute of Health's National Library of Medicine provides updated information about federally and privately supported clinical research in human volunteers, along with information about a trial's purpose, who may participate, locations, and phone numbers for more details. Go to the ClinicalTrials.gov website.

You may remember our report on an even more recent medical breakthrough in mesothelioma treatment using radiotherapy as opposed to chemotherapy. Visit our post, [Australian Researchers Pioneering New Mesothelioma Treatment Using Radiotherapy](#), for more detailed information on this new technique.

For more information on mesothelioma visit Asbestos-Mesothelioma.com.

Attorney [Tom Lamb](#) represents people in personal injury and wrongful death cases involving mesothelioma or other asbestos cancers. The above article was posted originally on his blog, **Asbestos HUB** – with active links and readers' comments.
<http://AsbestosHUB.com>