



**Hissey Kientz LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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TOLL FREE: (866) 275-4454

TELEPHONE: (512) 320-9100

WWW.HKLLP.COM

Asbestos exposure is the most common cause of [mesothelioma](#). In many cases, mesothelioma is discovered accidentally when patients report symptoms, leading to an accurate diagnosis. [Mesothelioma symptoms](#) are not always evident, especially early in the disease.

Mesothelioma has a long latency period, which means the symptoms can take years to manifest after asbestos exposure occurs. This makes [diagnosis](#) and effective treatment of mesothelioma very difficult.

### **Pleural mesothelioma symptoms**

Pleural mesothelioma, the most common form, involves shortness of breath and constant chest pains. These symptoms stem from the buildup of fluid between the lining of the lung and the chest cavity.

Pleural mesothelioma usually starts in the chest cavity and then spreads to other parts of the body. People suffering may have severe breathing problems, weight loss and fever, and sometimes trouble swallowing or swelling of the face and neck. Others who have pleural mesothelioma may not show any symptoms at all.

Here are the primary symptoms of pleural mesothelioma:

- Severe chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Persistent cough
- Lung infection
- Difficulty swallowing
- Loss of weight
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Swollen lymph nodes

## **Peritoneal mesothelioma symptoms**

Peritoneal mesothelioma accounts for about 20% of patients who receive a mesothelioma diagnosis, and is just as dangerous and deadly as pleural mesothelioma. It affects the lining around the stomach and intestines and spreads.

People suffering from peritoneal mesothelioma may have abdominal pain and swelling, nausea, loss of appetite and vomiting. Patients may also suffer from breathing problems and chest pain. These symptoms result from tumors pressing against the abdominal wall.

Bowel obstruction, anemia, fever and blood clotting also tend to affect peritoneal mesothelioma patients.

Here are the primary symptoms of peritoneal mesothelioma:

- Rasping
- Nausea
- Weight loss
- Anemia
- Vomiting
- Swelling of feet
- Fever

## **Pericardial mesothelioma symptoms**

Pericardial mesothelioma starts in the cavity surrounding the heart, as tumors grow and spread. Those suffering from pericardial mesothelioma may experience chest pain, shortness of breath, coughing and heart palpitations.

Remember that most people who have been exposed to asbestos do not begin to show mesothelioma symptoms until 30 or 40 years later. By then, the mesothelioma has spread, which means the mesothelioma treatment is much more difficult.