

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225) to make an appointment.

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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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Improving care for mesothelioma: For the best outcome for pleural, peritoneal, and other forms of mesothelioma, it's important to get an accurate diagnosis and excellent surgical care when symptoms first develop.

Mesothelioma is a cancer that affects tissue called the mesothelium, a lining that covers and protects many internal organs. Pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma account for most of the 2,000 to 3,000 new cases of the disease diagnosed in the United States each year. Less common types of mesothelioma include pericardial mesothelioma, which affects the lining surrounding the heart, and testicular mesothelioma.

2 Types of Mesothelioma:

There are two main types of mesothelioma. The type you have depends on which kind of tissue the cancer begins in.

Pleural mesothelioma affects the pleura, a membrane that protects your lungs.

Peritoneal mesothelioma affects your peritoneal membrane, the tissue that surrounds your abdominal organs.

The most common cause of mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos. This building material was once regularly used for insulation and fire prevention. Asbestos exposure can also lead to a similar but noncancerous disease, asbestosis.

There are other [risk factors for mesothelioma](#) as well.

Multiple Experts and a Team Approach

Most doctors and oncologists see very few people with this relatively rare cancer. The symptoms are often misdiagnosed as lung cancer or another illness. This can result in the loss of valuable treatment time that can affect your outcome.

As a hospital with one of the nation's largest volumes of patients with mesothelioma, we offer a unique level of expertise in diagnosing and treating people with this disease, whatever [stage](#) or type it may be. We can find solutions for you.

Because all of our mesothelioma experts work together so closely — we meet every other week to strategize on options for new as well as established patients — we're able to give you the treatment strategy most likely to work for you. We'll often turn to our very large patient database on pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma for help in guiding us on who might benefit most from various types of surgery, for example. It can also help us in deciding which clinical trial to recommend.

Our patients also benefit from the fact that we do so much research at MSK and know the latest about vaccines, immunotherapy drugs, cutting-edge [radiation techniques](#), and other novel ways of identifying and treating mesothelioma.

We work hard to improve the quality and length of life of people with mesothelioma. We offer the newest in pain management and relief from other symptoms, along with a [follow-up care](#) and [survivorship program](#) that can help keep you active and feeling cared for as long as possible.

Request an Appointment

Call [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225)

Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time)

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