

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

×



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

[Make an Appointment](#)

[Back](#)

[Peritoneal & Pleural Mesothelioma Cancers](#)

[Learn About Our Cancer Treatment](#)

[Refer a Patient](#)

ABOUT US

[Our mission, vision & core values](#)

[Leadership](#)

[History](#)

[Equality, diversity & inclusion](#)

[Annual report](#)

[Give to MSK](#)

Come to MSK for:

a clear diagnosis, including an expert assessment from pathologists who know how to look at mesothelioma cells. (A level of expertise unavailable at most hospitals.)

a team of mesothelioma experts who concentrate on your situation and make the best decision about a treatment plan for you

How We Diagnose Pleural Mesothelioma

In a pleural mesothelioma biopsy, your surgeon removes a tissue sample through a small cut in your chest wall. Your surgeon also inserts a small camera through a different incision. This camera helps your surgeon during the procedure. A biopsy takes less than an hour, and recovery takes a few days.

Your treatment team will use a physical examination, x-rays, tests of your lung function, and other imaging tests to understand how far the disease has spread. They will also determine the [stage](#) of the disease.

If you have fluid buildup in your lungs (called pleural effusion) and shortness of breath, we may drain this fluid with a drainage catheter (a tube) or a procedure called [thoracentesis](#).

How We Diagnose Peritoneal Mesothelioma

We may use a procedure called [paracentesis](#) to drain the fluid buildup in your abdomen if it's causing you discomfort or other problems. We can also use a sample of this fluid to look for cancer cells and diagnose what type of peritoneal mesothelioma you may have.

If our examination of the fluid doesn't give us enough information, we may have an [interventional radiologist](#) insert a thin needle through your skin to take a sample of tissue from your abdominal area. If [needle biopsy](#) isn't a safe option for you, or if its results are unclear, we may recommend that you have a minimally invasive procedure called a [laparoscopy](#) to examine you and be absolutely sure about your diagnosis and the best first steps for treating you.

During a laparoscopy, your surgeon inserts a tiny video camera through a small incision in your abdomen. The camera helps guide the procedure, which involves more small cuts through which your surgeon removes a small tissue sample using special instruments.

Request an Appointment

Call [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225)
Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time)

[Make an appointment](#)

PREVIOUS

Mesothelioma Risk Factors

NEXT

Stages of Mesothelioma

Connect

[Contact us](#)

[Locations](#)

APPOINTMENTS

[800-525-2225](#)

About MSK

[About us](#)

[Careers](#)

[Giving](#)

Cancer Care

[Adult cancer types](#)

[Child & teen cancer types](#)

[Integrative medicine](#)

[Nutrition & cancer](#)

[Find a doctor](#)

Research & Education

[Sloan Kettering Institute](#)

[Gerstner Sloan Kettering Graduate School](#)

[Graduate medical education](#)

[MSK Library](#)

[Communication preferences](#)

[Cookie preferences](#)

[Legal disclaimer](#)

[Accessibility statement](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Price transparency](#)

[Public notices](#)

© 2024 Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center