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**ASSESSMENT OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF INCREASING LIFE
EXPEXCTANCY ON MALE MESOTHELIOMA DEATHS FROM PAST, PRESENT
AND FUTURE EXPOSURES TO ASBESTOS**

Abstract *

Male mesothelioma deaths in Great Britain have increased from 145 in 1970 to 2101 in 2014 and the proportion of such deaths after age 70 has increased from 20% to 74% respectively. This change in age distribution could be due to: more people surviving long enough to develop mesothelioma; the incidences of previously early-in-life asbestos-induced diseases, such as asbestosis and asbestosis with tuberculosis have declined, so that survivors now live long enough to develop mesothelioma; and, the inverse relationship between severity of exposure and latent period means that an increasing proportion of those who experienced only low level exposures, and can only develop mesothelioma by surviving into their eighties or nineties, are now so surviving.

Tan & Warren (2009) predicted that male mesothelioma deaths between 1968 and 2050 will be about 91,000. However, their prediction did not take account of predicted changes in life expectancy, significant current exposures and the failure to implement adequate current exposure standards.

Office of National Statistics predicts that the number of males surviving beyond ages 70 and 80 will increase from 2.9 and 0.9 million in 2010 to 5.6 and 2.5 million in 2050 respectively.

Reassessment of the available data to take account of the above population predictions indicates there will be about 180,000 male mesothelioma deaths between 1970 and 2050.

The predicted changes in life expectancy indicates the need to strictly control current and future exposures to asbestos: particularly for young children. Exposure limits of about 50-100 fibres/m³ are suggested as maximum limits.

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Affiliations and Authors *

Author Information

Robin Howie (Presenting)

Affiliations

Robin Howie Associates, Edinburgh, United Kingdom