

By Denny Bulcao for Ceatus Media Group (SEO/SEM writing)

Sarcomatoid Mesothelioma

Sarcomatoid Mesothelioma is an uncommon type of cancer caused due to asbestos exposure. It is difficult to diagnose Sarcomatoid Mesothelioma and thus far it has been resistant in responding to any type of therapy. This is the most serious of all asbestos-related diseases. This type of cancer can be found on the lips, the larynx and, in certain cases, it may affect the oral cavity. Like all other forms of malignant mesothelioma cancers, sarcomatoid mesothelioma is a fatal disease. Even though radiation therapy is recommended for the treatment of cancerous tumors, some may not be radiosensitive and defy the radiation treatment.

Diagnosis of Sarcomatoid Mesothelioma

Differentiating sarcomatoid mesothelioma from other cell tumors by light microscopy is very difficult. The role of immunohistochemistry is also not well defined in its diagnosis. Since sarcomatoid mesothelioma is not always cytokeratin-negative, the distinction between it and sarcoma is not always possible.

What is sarcoma?

Sarcoma is a form of cancer that originates in the supportive tissues of the body such as the bone, cartilage, fat or muscle.

What is malignant mesothelioma and how many types are there?

Mesothelioma is a tumor of mesothelial tissue. Mesothelial tissue includes the pleura which envelopes the lungs and lines the chest cavity, the peritoneum which lines the abdomen, and the pericardium which surrounds the heart. Mesothelioma is usually malignant in nature. It is exceptionally rare except in cases of asbestos exposure - between 70% and 80% of persons diagnosed with mesothelioma can trace the condition to asbestos exposure. Approximately 75% of malignant mesothelioma cancers begin in the chest cavity ("pleural mesothelioma"), with about 15% beginning in the abdomen ("peritoneal mesothelioma"). It is very unusual for a mesothelioma cancer to begin in the pericardium ("pericardial mesothelioma"). Some people struggle with another asbestos-related disease, asbestosis, which causes scarring of the lung tissue.

Types of malignant mesothelioma (based on cell structure) include:

- **Epithelioid Mesothelioma** - This is the most survivable form, affecting the epithelioid cells. About 50 to 70 percent are of the epithelioid type.
- **Sarcomatoid Mesothelioma** - This form affects the sarcomatoid cells, and is less survivable.
- **Mixed / Biphasic Mesothelioma** - This form affects both the epithelioid and sarcomatoid cells, with the same prognosis as for sarcomatoid mesothelioma.

These types of mesothelioma cells can further divide into other types of cancerous cells called

- Clear cell
- Small cell
- Acinar cell

Tubopapillary cell

Symptoms and Treatment of Mesothelioma

Initial symptoms of mesothelioma include chest pain, cough, and may include difficulty breathing associated with "pleural effusion", a build-up of fluid between the pleura and the chest cavity. Due to the nonspecific nature of the symptoms, there may be a delay in diagnosis, often in the range of three to six months. Even with advancements in treatment, mesothelioma is usually fatal within two years of diagnosis, and less than ten percent of patients survive five years or more. It is very important for people who have been exposed to asbestos to be vigilant about seeking the most effective treatment options available. With early diagnosis and effective treatment, a typical malignant mesothelioma cancer patient may survive for two or three years. Some live as long as five to ten years.