

TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF MESOTHELIAL TUMOURS BY AGE, SEX AND SITE

Age (Years)	Pleura		Peritoneum		Pleura and Peritoneum		Pericardium		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
20-	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4
30-	7	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	13	9
40-	9	7	4	1	—	—	—	1	31	8
50-	18	3	11	4	1	—	—	—	28	12
60-	26	5	2	5	—	2	—	—	22	11
70-	15	5	7	6	—	—	—	—	4	5
80-	3	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
All	80	33	26	19	1	2	1	3	108	57
Total	113		45		3		4		165	

have contributed to this and, as the records in some hospitals were poorer for the earlier years, memory may also have been a factor. With these points in mind the rate of increase is difficult to assess. During the 8 complete years, 1960-67, the average annual incidence was 1.0 per million of population. The rate was appreciably higher in Quebec (1.5) than in Ontario (0.8) or in the rest of Canada (0.9)—1966 and 1967 again accounting for much of the difference. There was no difference in the sex distribution under the age of 50 but thereafter males were in considerable excess.

The case and two control series were very similar in age distribution and in the proportion of each for which the questionnaire was completed (Table 3). In this preliminary report

only the more immediately important questions relating to asbestos exposure and to cigarette smoking have been examined. Table 4 summarizes the occupational exposure for males aged 15 years or more at death, excluding the 10 years preceding death. There was a substantial excess of 'definite' and 'probable' exposures over both control groups ($P < .001$) but virtually no difference in the frequency of jobs in which exposure was classified as 'possible'. In 61% of the cases, however, occupational exposure to asbestos was considered 'unlikely'. Only one woman in all had any occupational exposure; this was classified as possible and she was in control group A.

The occupations involving definite or probable exposure to asbestos are listed in Table

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND SEX OF CASES AND CONTROLS

Age (Years)	Males			Females		
	Cases	Group A	Group B	Cases	Group A	Group B
0-	—	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)
10-	2 (1)	—	—	1 (1)	—	—
20-	—	2 (2)	—	4 (2)	2 (2)	—
30-	8 (8)	6 (6)	2 (1)	6 (5)	6 (4)	3 (2)
40-	13 (8)	14 (10)	24 (20)	9 (6)	10 (8)	14 (13)
50-	31 (29)	26 (20)	24 (18)	8 (6)	7 (6)	8 (7)
60-	27 (24)	35 (29)	35 (32)	12 (11)	15 (14)	12 (7)
70-	23 (21)	20 (17)	17 (13)	11 (10)	13 (9)	15 (14)
80-	4 (3)	4 (4)	4 (4)	5 (4)	3 (3)	3 (2)
All	108 (94)	108 (89)	107 (89)	57 (46)	57 (47)	56 (46)
Mean	58.7	59.1	59.1	55.8	57.4	58.8
SD	13.9	13.3	12.5	19.3	17.3	15.5

No. of questionnaires completed shown in parenthesis ().