

## Peritoneal Mesothelioma

**Peritoneal mesothelioma** appears in the abdomen and therefore is sometimes called "abdominal mesothelioma." This stomach cancer accounts for around 20 percent of all malignant mesothelioma cases diagnosed each year. Peritoneal mesothelioma is the second most prevalent form of the asbestos-related cancer.

Mesothelioma specialists have two theories on how asbestos fibers enter the peritoneum and result in a peritoneal mesothelioma diagnosis. The first theory is that the asbestos fibers are trapped by the mucus in the trachea or bronchi and eventually swallowed. The second theory is that asbestos fibers stuck in the lungs eventually move into the lymphatic system and are transferred to the peritoneum.

Like all forms of asbestos-related cancers, peritoneal mesothelioma can be dormant for decades. Symptoms of peritoneal mesothelioma can include:

- Abdominal pain
- Abdominal swelling due to fluid accumulation
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Weakness
- Nausea
- Bowel obstruction
- Breathing difficulties

It is often quite difficult to diagnose peritoneal mesothelioma since the symptoms associated with asbestos cancer are often similar to those of other, less serious conditions.

However, if you believe you may have the potentially malignant mesothelioma known as peritoneal mesothelioma, you should contact your health care provider immediately. Your doctor's first step will be to collect a full medical and asbestos exposure history, along with a thorough physical examination.

For cancers of the abdomen, your doctor may perform a laparoscopy, which involves making a small opening in your abdomen and inserting a laproscope to take tissue samples. This is an effective procedure for making a peritoneal mesothelioma diagnosis.



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## Peritoneal Mesothelioma (Cont.)

At the Simmons firm, we have been working with clients suffering from a peritoneal mesothelioma diagnosis for nearly a decade. In that time, we have represented thousands of individuals from all areas of the United States and recovered over \$1 billion in verdicts and settlements for over 10,000 clients.\*

**If you were diagnosed with Peritoneal Mesothelioma, please contact us for a free case evaluation.**

### Peritoneal Mesothelioma **Videos**

Peritoneal mesothelioma affects people and families across the country. Click on the icon above to watch video interviews with patients and family members and learn more about peritoneal mesothelioma from nurse practitioner and mesothelioma medical expert Mary Hesdorffer. Visit the Mesothelioma Video Library, an informational peritoneal mesothelioma resource from the Simmons firm.

*\* Please note that recovery results vary per client. The recovery amounts in each case reflect the specific facts of that case. Further, recovery amounts in past cases are not a guarantee of future results.*