

A CASE STUDY OF ASBESTOSIS

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A patient in 58 years of age complained for dry cough and exertional dyspnea for 6 months. He was suspected for pneumoconiosis from 1993 and had been worked in asbestos company for 3-4 years from 1974.

The pneumoconiosis was classified as 0/1 based on chest X-ray. He was recently diagnosed as an interstitial lung disease during the annual special health check-up for asbestos workers. The chest X-ray showed interstitial lung disease and chest HRCT showed round opaque asbestosis and chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

Pulmonary function test results indicated that the patient had a mild restrictive lung disease with FEV1 1.67 l and FEV1/FVC 82%. The bronchoalveolar lavage fluid had many asbestos body indicating previous exposure of asbestos.

Transmission electron microscopy with energy dispersive X-ray analyzer showed many asbestos body with mainly crocidolite fibers. The patient had 6579×10^6 asbestos fibers/g of dry lung.

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