

Case Study—Mesothelioma

History

A 66 year old male with a history of recent weight loss and a cough, was presented for a chest X-Ray. The results indicated left pleural effusion and pleural thickening .

A chest drain was inserted into the left lateral lower chest area and the effusion was drained.

A CT guided biopsy was performed, and the resulting histology indicated Pleural Epithelioid Mesothelioma.



Pathology

Mesothelioma is a rare malignant tumour which arises from the mesothelial cells of the pleura (lining of the lung) and is generally associated with exposure to Asbestos.

Onset is typically very slow and patients can present with symptoms more than 20 years after exposure.

Treatment

Both the Biopsy and Chest drain sites were treated to prevent implantation of malignant cells from the biopsy needle and chest drain in the skin, the patient was treated sitting. Chemotherapy was used to control the primary disease.

Radiotherapy Prescription (Biopsy site)

20Gy in 5 daily fractions.

HVL - 2.5mm Cu (260kV)

Field size - 5cm circle centred on the puncture site.

Radiotherapy Prescription (Drain site)

20Gy in 5 daily fractions.

HVL - 2.5mm Cu (260kV)

Field size - 6x8cm centred on the drain site.

Treatment Reactions

Mild erythema with some dry desquamation.

Possible late effects include hyperpigmentation



The patient was treated using an Xstrahl X-Ray Therapy System at Colchester Hospital University NHS Trust.