

DOI: 10.21767/2254-6081.1000129

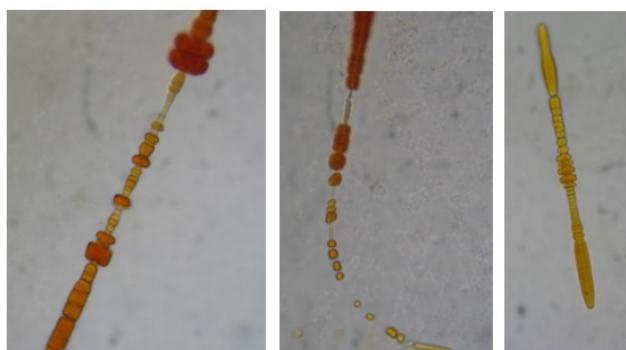
## Asbestos Bodies

**Claudio Bianchi**

Center for the Study of Environmental Cancer, Italian League against Cancer, Hospital of Monfalcone, 34074, Monfalcone, Italy

**Corresponding author:** Claudio Bianchi, Center for the Study of Environmental Cancer, Italian League against Cancer, Hospital of Monfalcone, 34074, Monfalcone, Italy, Tel: +39-0481-44007; E-mail: legatumori1@interfree.it**Received:** 23 January 2017; **Accepted:** 25 January 2017; **Published:** 31 January 2017**Citation:** Bianchi C. Asbestos Bodies. Arch Can Res. 2017, 5: 1.

### Brief Report



**Figure 1** Asbestos bodies isolated from the lung after chemical digestion of the pulmonary tissue (unstained, x 1.000).

The core of the body is a colourless need-like fiber of asbestos. The host tissue uncompletely embeds the body with material composed by iron and protein. This is golden yellow.

Asbestos bodies do not represent all asbestos presence in the lung. In fact, high number of asbestos fibers remain unembedded. Nevertheless, asbestos bodies represent a very precious marker that documents a previous asbestos exposure (**Figure 1**).

Asbestos bodies are extremely diffused in the industrial world. Necropsy-based studies conducted in the 1970s in various countries of the world showed that the bodies were detectable in all people living in large cities.

Obviously, the body burdens show a wide variation after the patient history: from few bodies per gram of dried tissue to even 10,000,000 bodies. This means that asbestos bodies may offer information not only on the existence of a previous asbestos exposure, but also about its intensity.

Although asbestos is well recognized as a potent carcinogenic agent, its use continues in a large majority of the world, corresponding to about 80% of the general population.

Therefore, asbestos continues to represent a major health problem.