

# MESOTHELIOMA

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## Not Just a Late Night Commercial

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*Saturday Session*

Thoracic Surgery Nurse Practitioner

Greater Los Angeles Veteran Affairs

# Objectives

## **Course Objectives:**

- Discuss risk factors for malignant pleural mesothelioma
- Discuss clinical and radiologic findings in mesothelioma
- Discuss current treatment/disease management options

## **At the end of the presentation, participant will be able to:**

- State at least 3 mesothelioma risk factors
- Identify at least 3 clinical and radiologic finding in patients with mesothelioma
- Describe current lung-sparing treatment modalities for mesothelioma

# Mesothelioma

- Tumor arising from the mesothelium
  - Pleural
  - Pericardium
  - Peritoneum
- 80% are Pleural Mesotheliomas (MPM)
  - 60% right-sided
- Usually spreads locally along ipsilateral pleura
- Linked to asbestos exposure in 1960<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Wagner JC, et. al. Meso and asbestos in NW Cape Prov. Br J Ind Med 1960;17:260-71

# MPM Epidemiology

## Incidence

- US 2000-3000/yr<sup>2</sup>
  - Overall: 1.2/100,000
  - High risk males: 63.6/100,000
  - High risk females: 9.6/100,000
- Global<sup>3</sup>
  - Overall mortality 1994 – 2008: 4.9/million

# MPM Epidemiology

- Latency period of 20-40+ years
- Median age = 60 yrs (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> decades)
- Age range 28-90+
- Male:female = 3:1
- Etiology: Asbestos

# Asbestos



# Asbestos

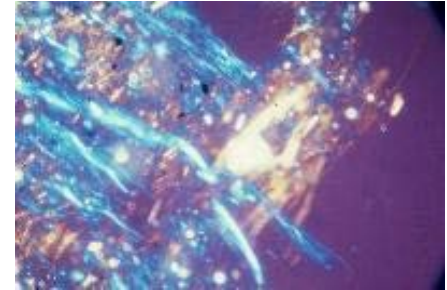
- Group of hydrated magnesium silicate fibrous minerals
- 2 Major types
  - Serpentine
  - Amphibole
- Resistant to heat and combustion
- Used in production of
  - Cement
  - Ceiling
  - Tiles
  - Brake linings
  - Ship buildings

Sterman, D. H., & Albelda, S. M. (2005). Advances in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of malignant pleural mesothelioma. *Respirology*, 10(3), 266-283.

# Asbestos

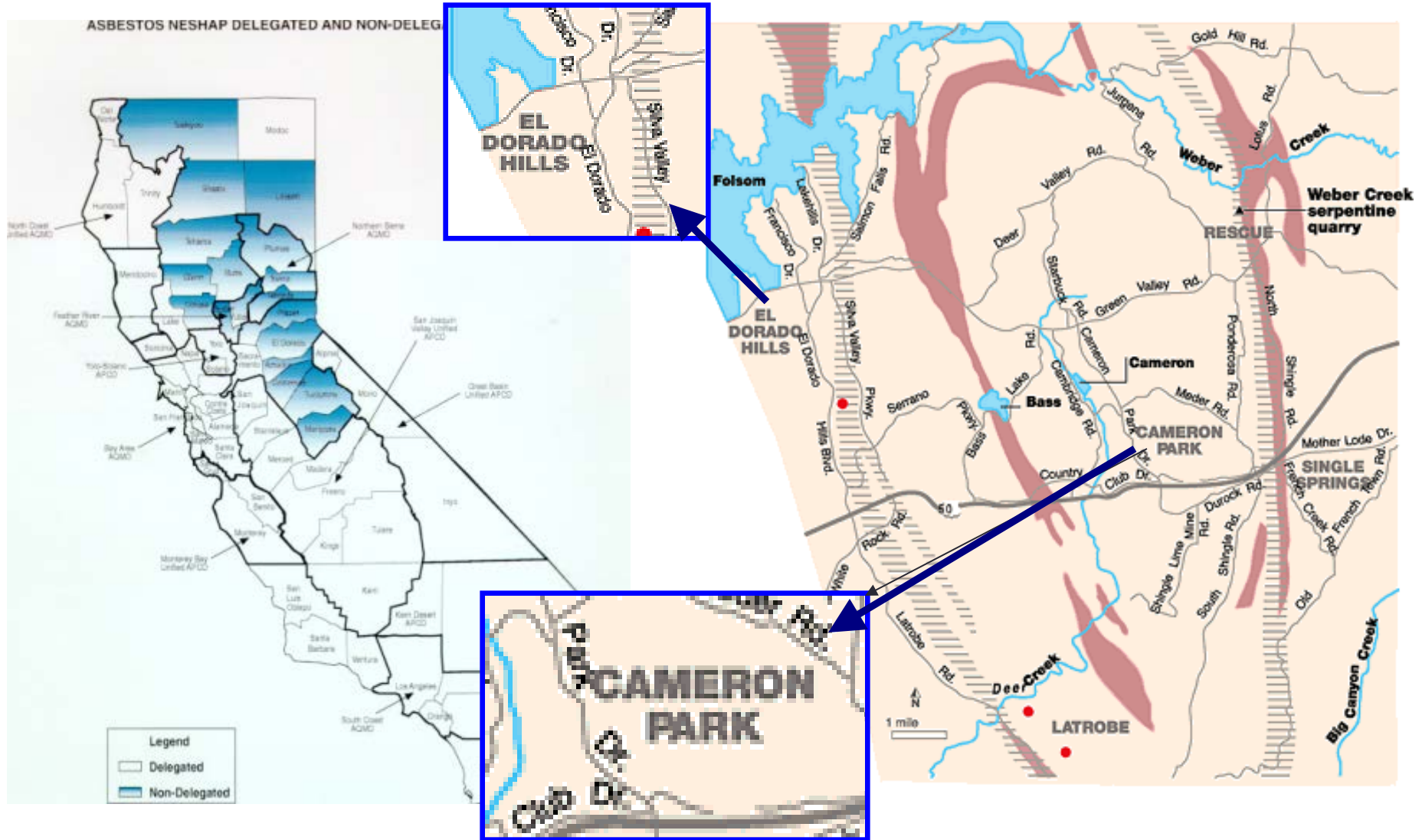
## Fiber Types

- Serpentine (large curly pliable fibers)
  - Chrysotile
- Amphibole (long narrow rod-like fibers)
  - Crocidolite
  - Amosite
  - Tremolite
  - Anthophyllite
  - Actinolite
- Silicates (contaminated with tremolite)
  - Zeolite (Turkey)
  - Vermiculite (Libby, Montana)





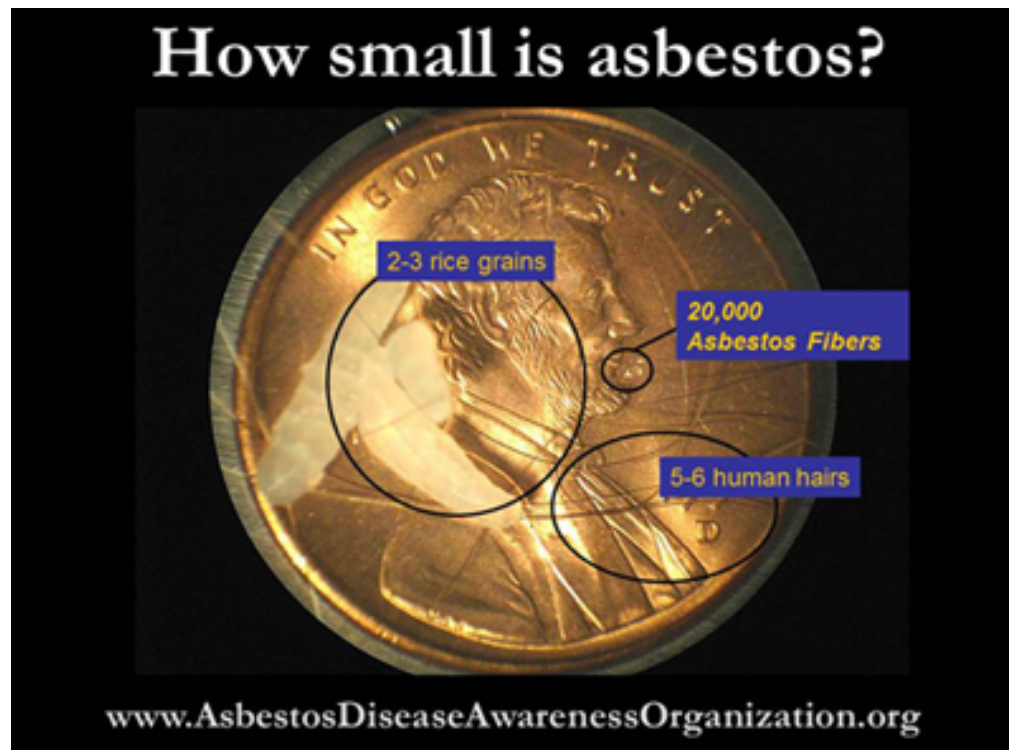
# Asbestos Geological Hot Spots California



# Asbestos Regulation

## OSHA Regulation<sup>4</sup>

- 1970: 5 fibres/mL<sup>3</sup> of air
- Now: 0.2 fibres/mL<sup>3</sup> of air



# Asbestos

911



# 9/11 AIR TOXINS RELATED TO CANCER

10 YEARS LATER

presented by [Asbestos.com](http://Asbestos.com)

The four terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, two of them on the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York City, changed America forever. In the decade since, researchers and doctors have discovered just how toxic dust can be. One recent study found that every first responder to the fallen Twin Towers has suffered some degree of lung impairment.

## 410,000 PEOPLE EXPOSED

Nearly half a million people were impacted by contaminated air in the wake of the Twin Towers' collapse, including first responders, nearby residents and workers charged with cleaning up the massive amounts of debris at the site and nearby dust.



**204** THE NUMBER OF FIRST RESPONDERS THAT HAVE DIED AFTER 9/11

**55** THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE DIED FROM LUNG OR OTHER CANCERS RELATED

## 112,000 x

The magnitude of the asbestos level above the legal limit of a building next to Ground Zero. Tests showed the building essentially had become toxic like it.



INCREASE OF CANCER DIAGNOSIS IN FIRE FIGHTERS WHO SERVED DURING 9/11.  
Dr. David Prezant, chief medical officer nyc fire dept.  
[www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov)



**2,000 TONS** The amount of asbestos fibers that were released into the air by the towers' collapse.

That is the equivalent of **182 SCHOOL BUSES**



The tons of debris that was removed from Ground Zero.

## \$2.775 BILLION

The amount of money in a 9/11 compensation fund now able to be accessed by families of victims and survivors. The fund was reopened in July 2011 as part of James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. The law was universally hailed until cancer victims learned they are not covered. However, the law ensures that some 25,000 survivors and 25,000 responders have access to specialized medical services and promotes and provides funding for medical research.



CREATED BY [Asbestos.com](http://Asbestos.com)

# Risk Factors

- ASBESTOS EXPOSURE<sup>4</sup>
  - Lifetime risk 8 – 13%
  - Latency period 30 – 40 yrs from exposure
- Ship yard workers/ship builders
- Electricians
- Plumbers
- Carpenters
- Insulation installers
- Construction Workers
- Auto mechanics (brake removal and installation)

# Clinical Presentation

## Subjective

- Cough\*
- Shortness of breath\*
- Chest pain/discomfort\*
  
- *History of asbestos exposure*

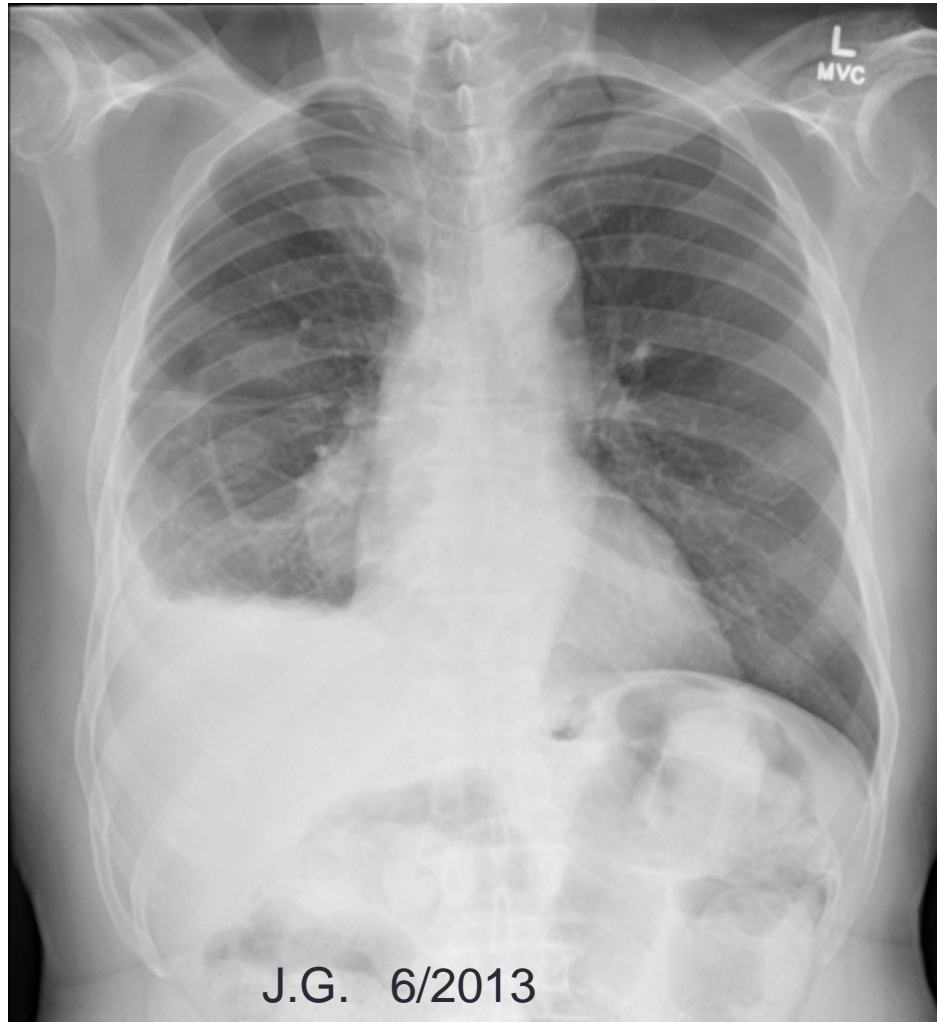
\*(>90% of patients present with combinations of these symptoms)

# Clinical Presentation

## Objective

- Unilateral dullness to percussion
- Unilateral distant breath sounds
- Scoliosis towards side of malignancy
- Abnormal x-ray
  - Unilateral pleural thickening
  - Unilateral pleural effusion

# MPM Presentation

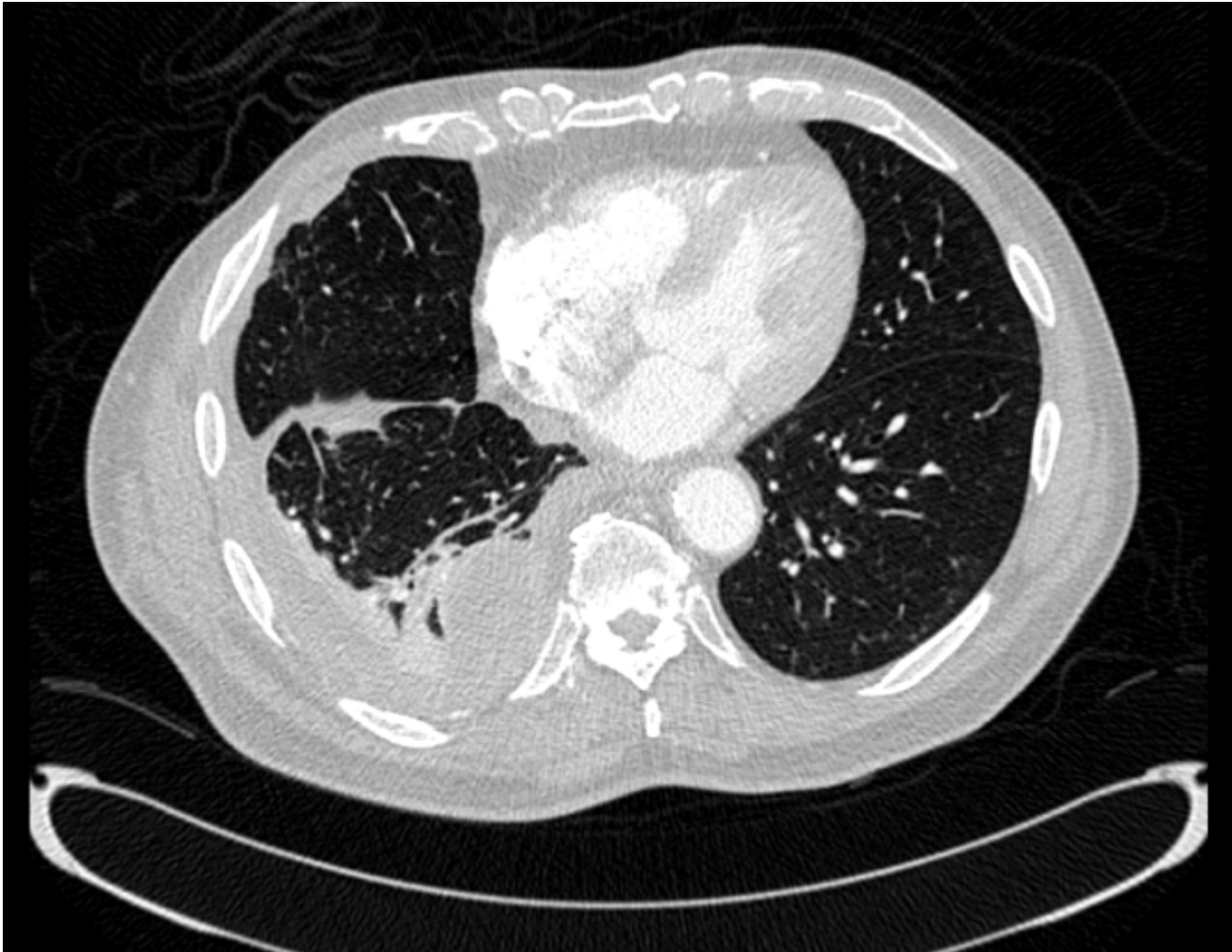




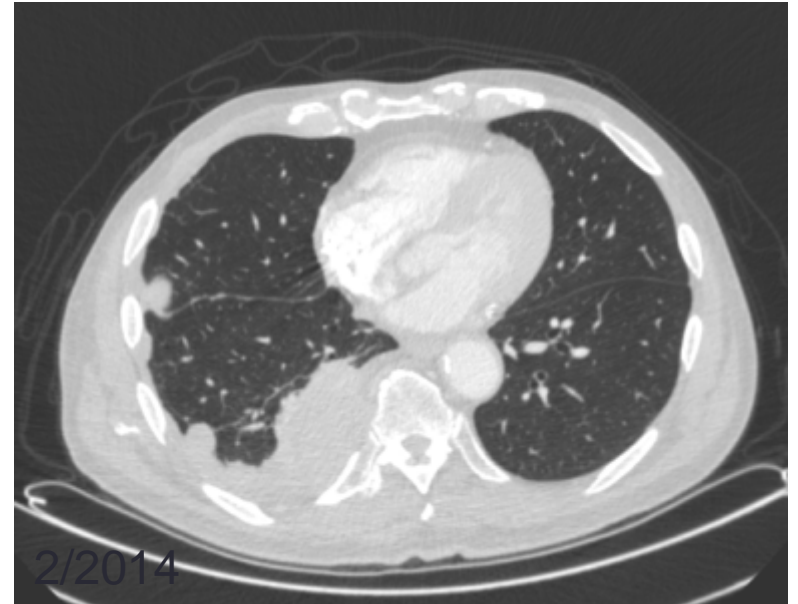
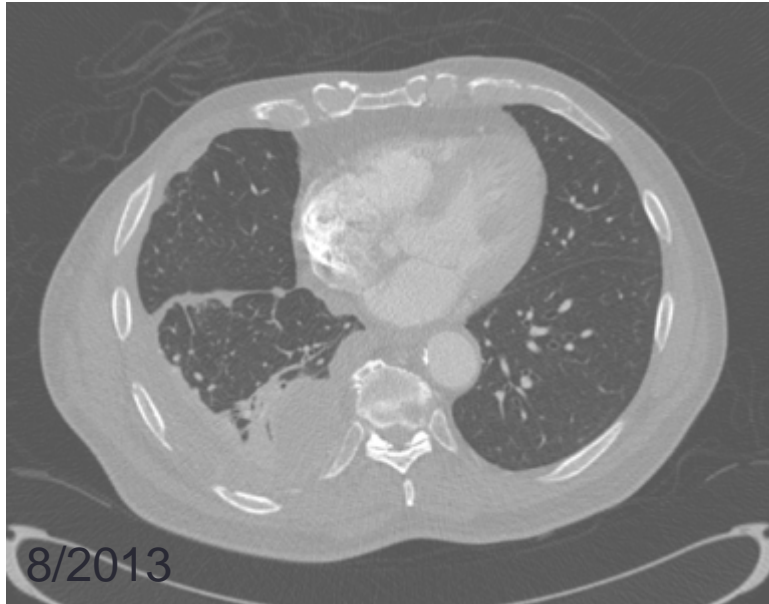
# MPM Presentation (6/2013)



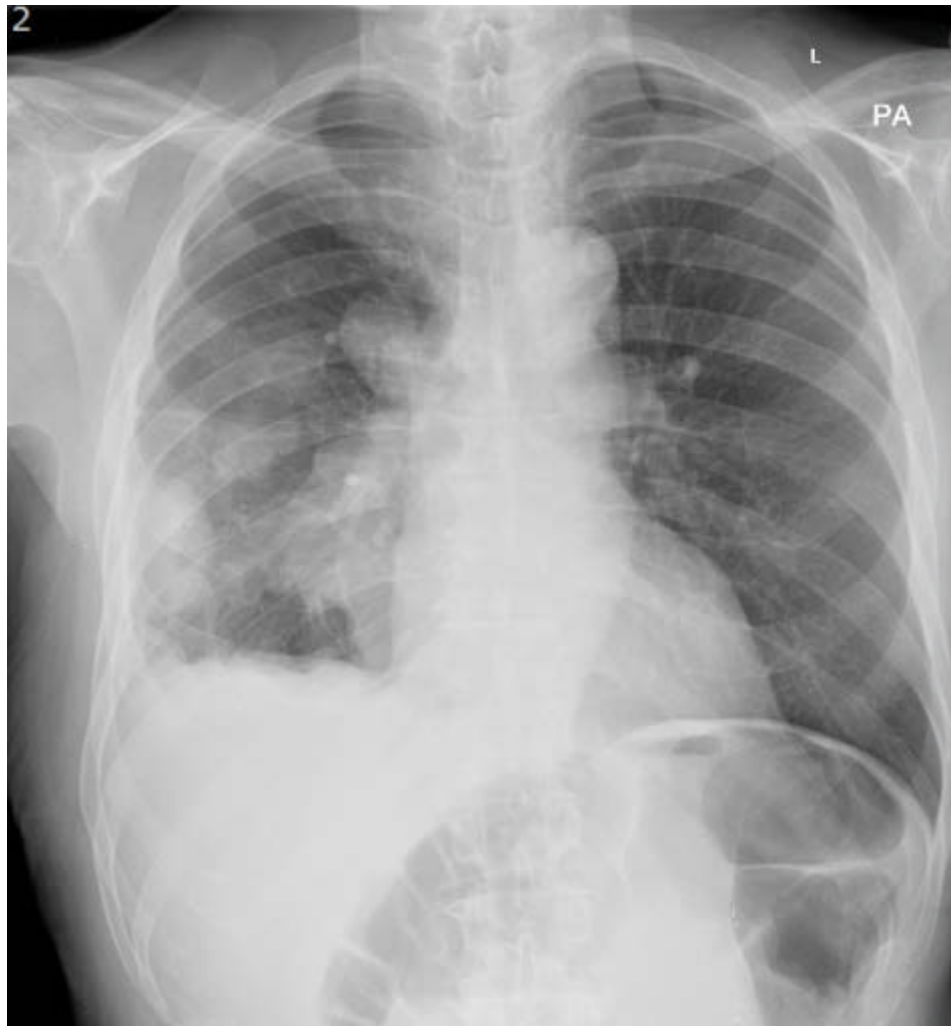
# MPM (8/4/13)



# Patient J.G.

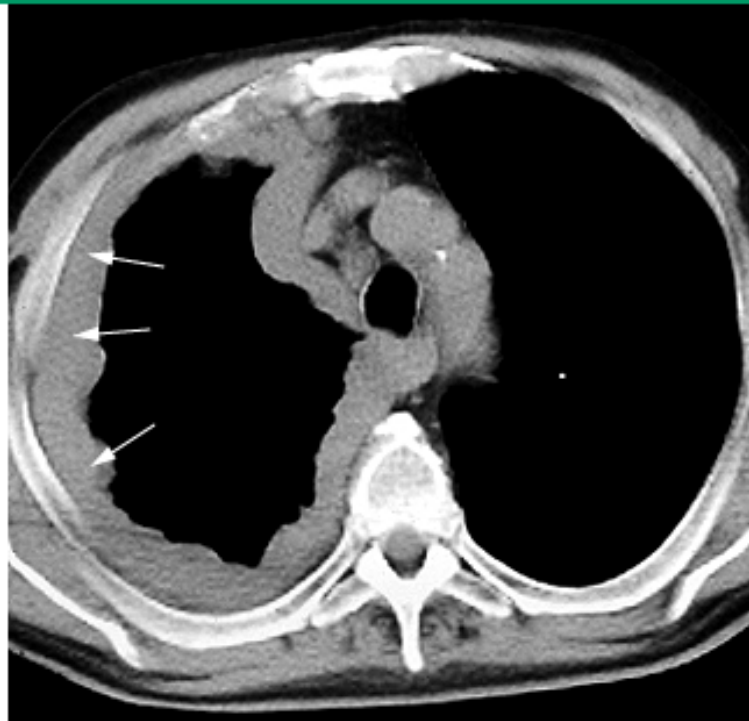


# Patient J.G. 2/2014



# MPM

## Malignant mesothelioma



CT scan shows right sided nodular circumferential pleural thickening exceeding 1 cm in thickness, typical of a malignant process (arrows). No clear cut invasion of the chest wall is present. A slightly enlarged pretracheal lymph node proved to be reactive in nature.

# MPM Diagnosis

- *Often misdiagnosed*
- Thoracentesis or closed pleural biopsy
  - Cytology of effusion can be diagnostic of MPM, but negative results DOES NOT exclude the possibility of mesothelioma
  - Sample errors
- Thoracoscopic or open pleural biopsy
  - Gold standard
  - Highest diagnostic value

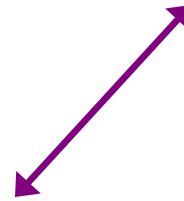
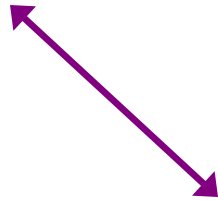
\*\*mesothelioma will seed biopsy site(s)\*\*

# MPM Diagnosis

## Two Diseases

Epithelioid MPM

Sarcomatoid MPM



Biphasic MPM



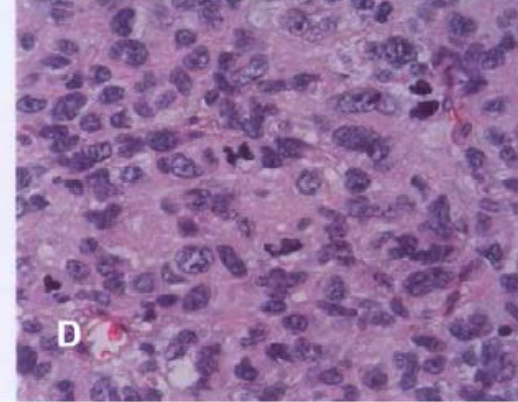
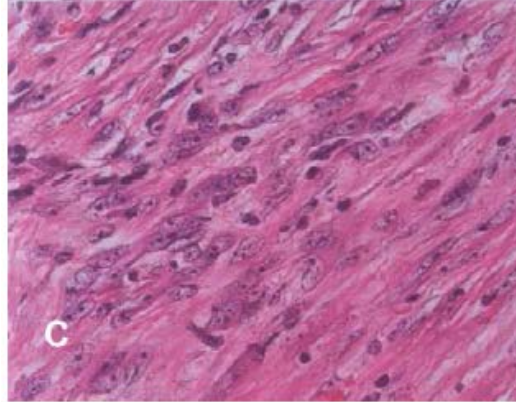
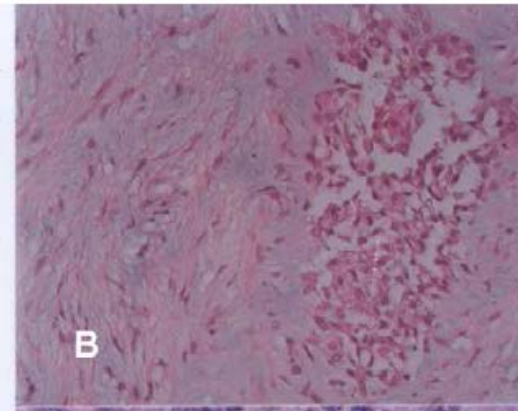
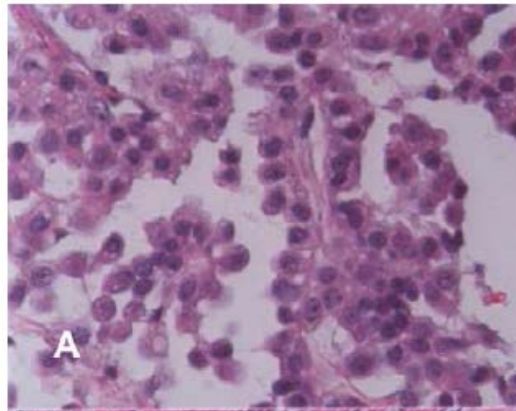
Predominant cell type?

# MPM Diagnosis

## Histology

**Epithelioid**

**Biphasic**



**Sarcomatoid**

**Undifferentiated**



# MPM Diagnosis

## Epithelioid

- Better prognosis
- 50 – 60% of cases
- Less invasive
- Fewer distant metastases
- Requires local control more than systemic control

## Sarcomatoid

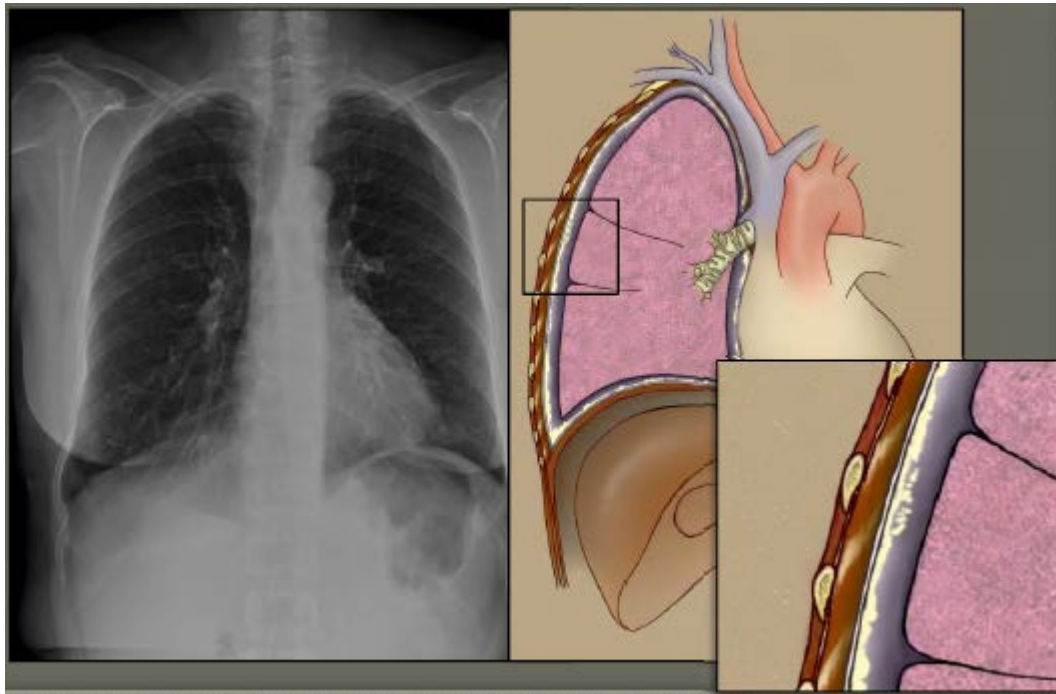
- Worse prognosis
- 10 – 15% of cases
- More invasive
- More likely to metastasis
- Requires more systemic control than local control

# IMIG TNM Staging

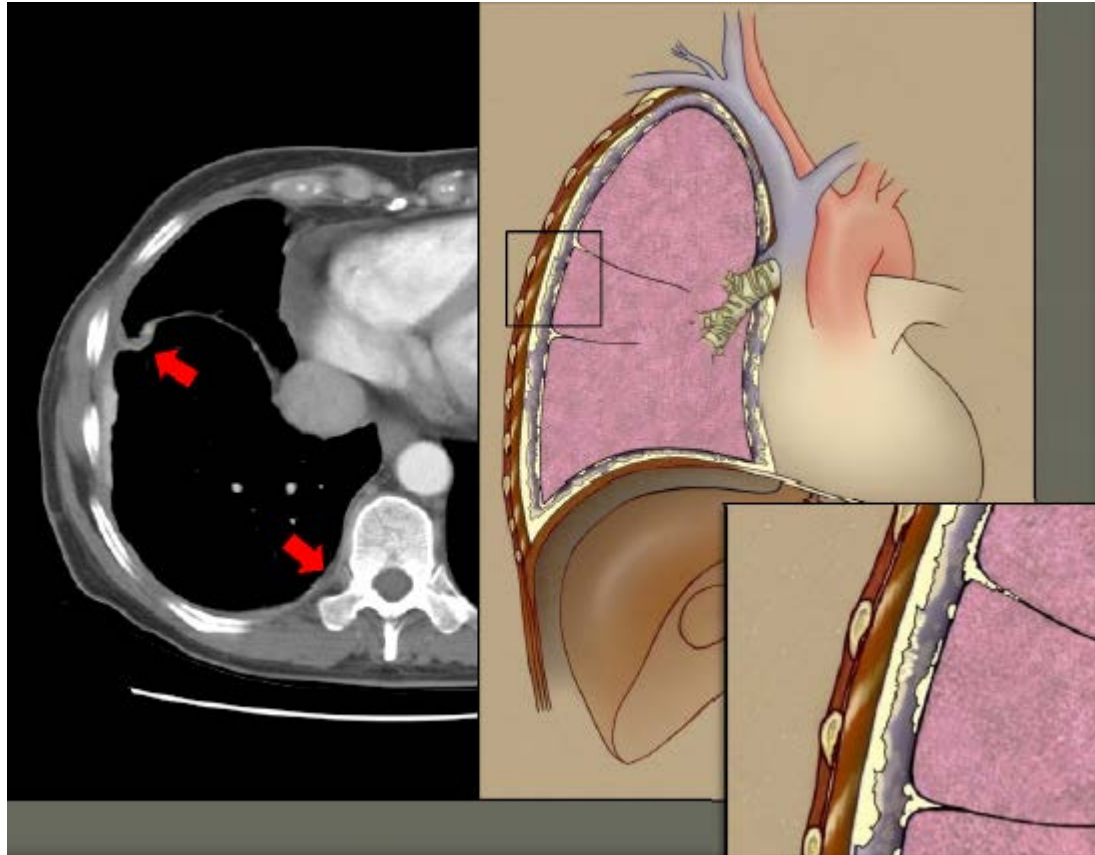
**Table 1.**  
TNM staging system for MPM

Stage	TNM	Comments
Ia	T1a N0 M0	Primary tumour limited to ipsilateral parietal pleura
Ib	T1b N0 M0	As stage Ia plus focal involvement of visceral pleura
II	T2 N0 M0	As stage Ia or Ib plus confluent involvement of diaphragm or visceral pleura or involvement of the lung
III	Any T3 M0	Locally advanced tumour
	Any N1 M0	Ipsilateral, bronchopulmonary or hilar lymph node involvement
	Any N2 M0	Subcarinal or ipsilateral mediastinal lymph node involvement
IV	Any T4	Locally advanced technically unresectable tumour
	Any N3	Contralateral mediastinal, internal mammary, and ipsilateral or contralateral supraclavicular lymph node involvement
	Any M1	Distant metastases

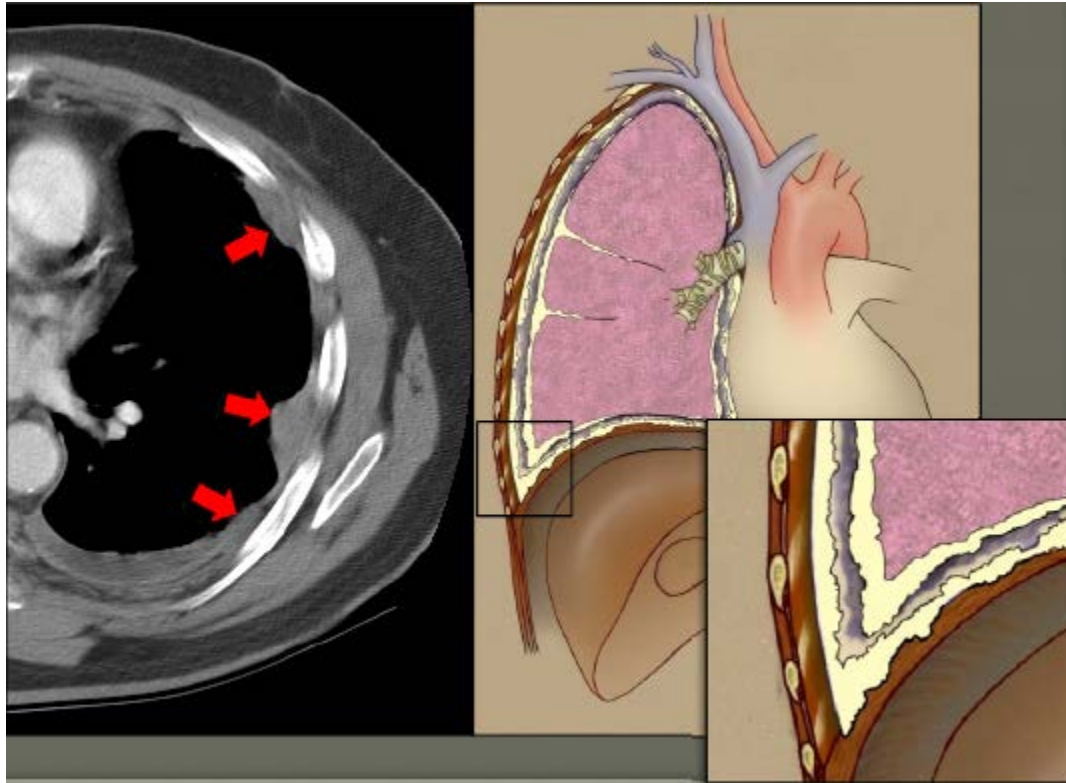
# Stage Ia



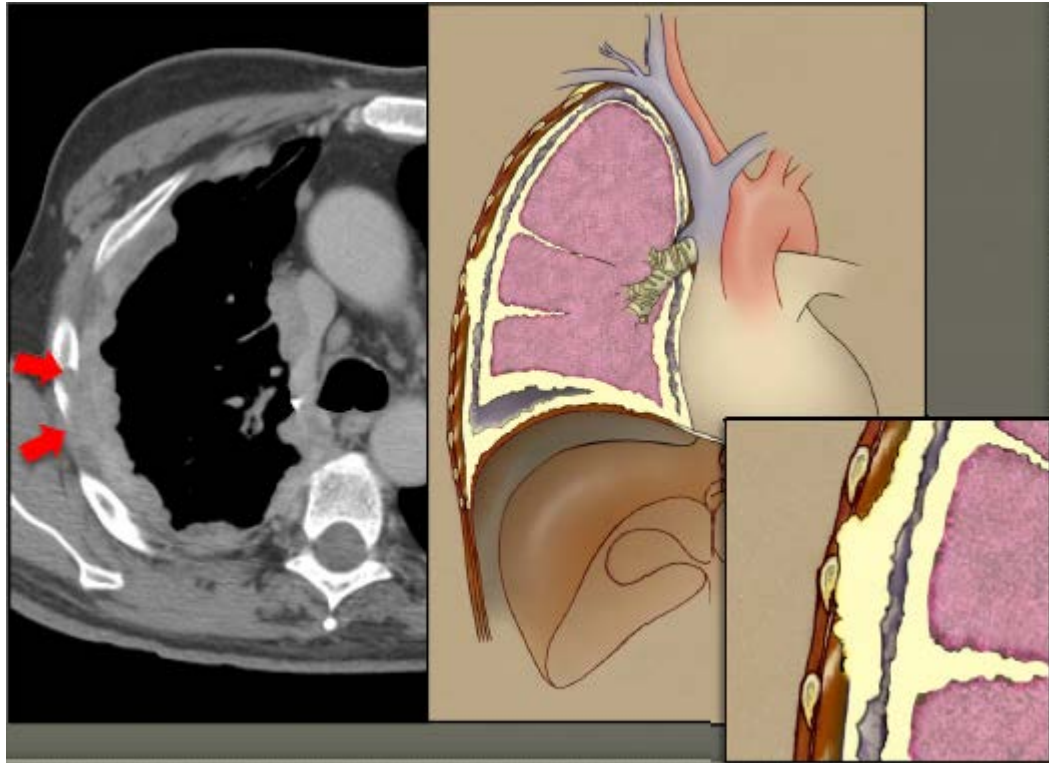
# Stage Ib



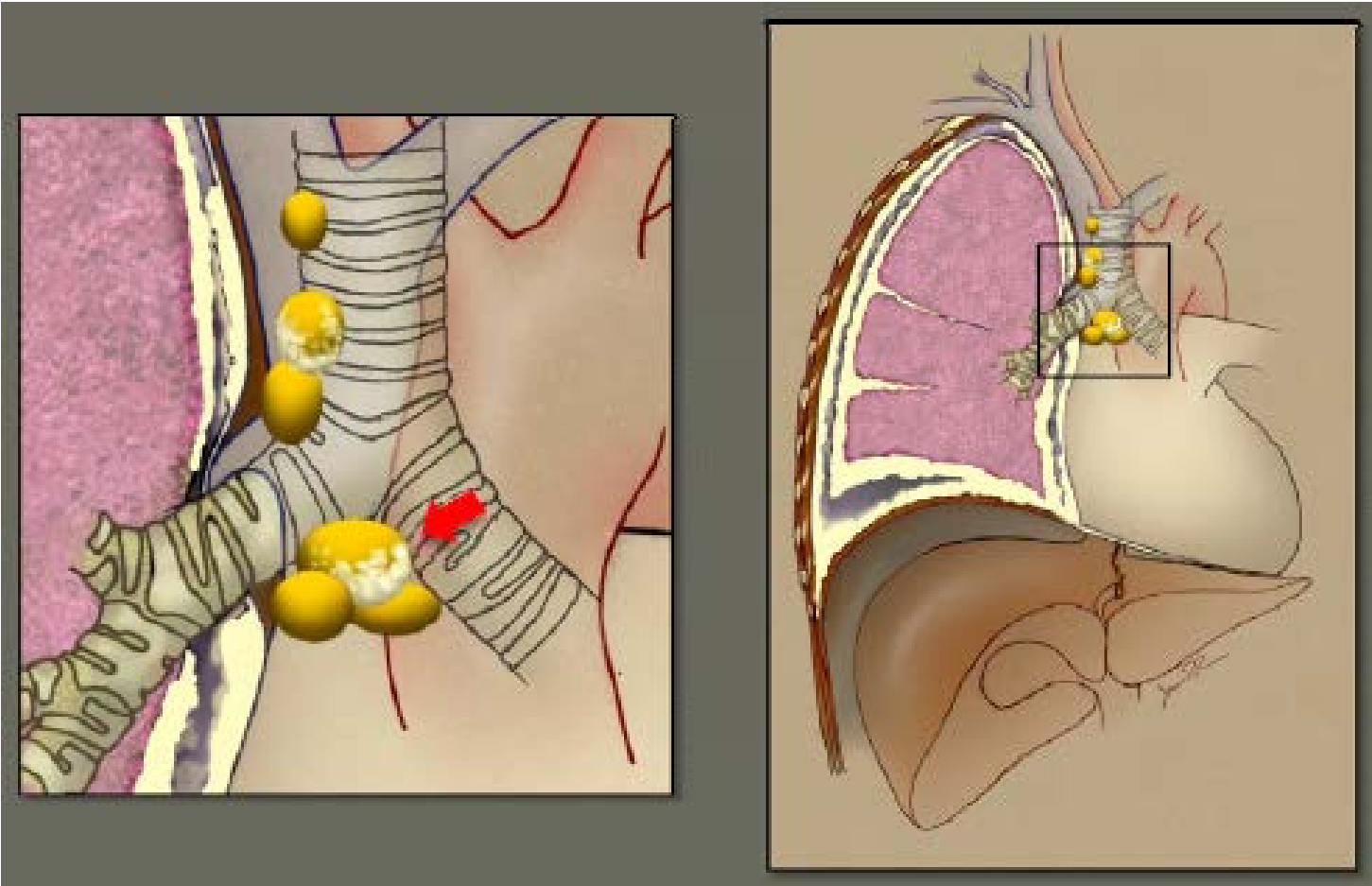
# Stage II



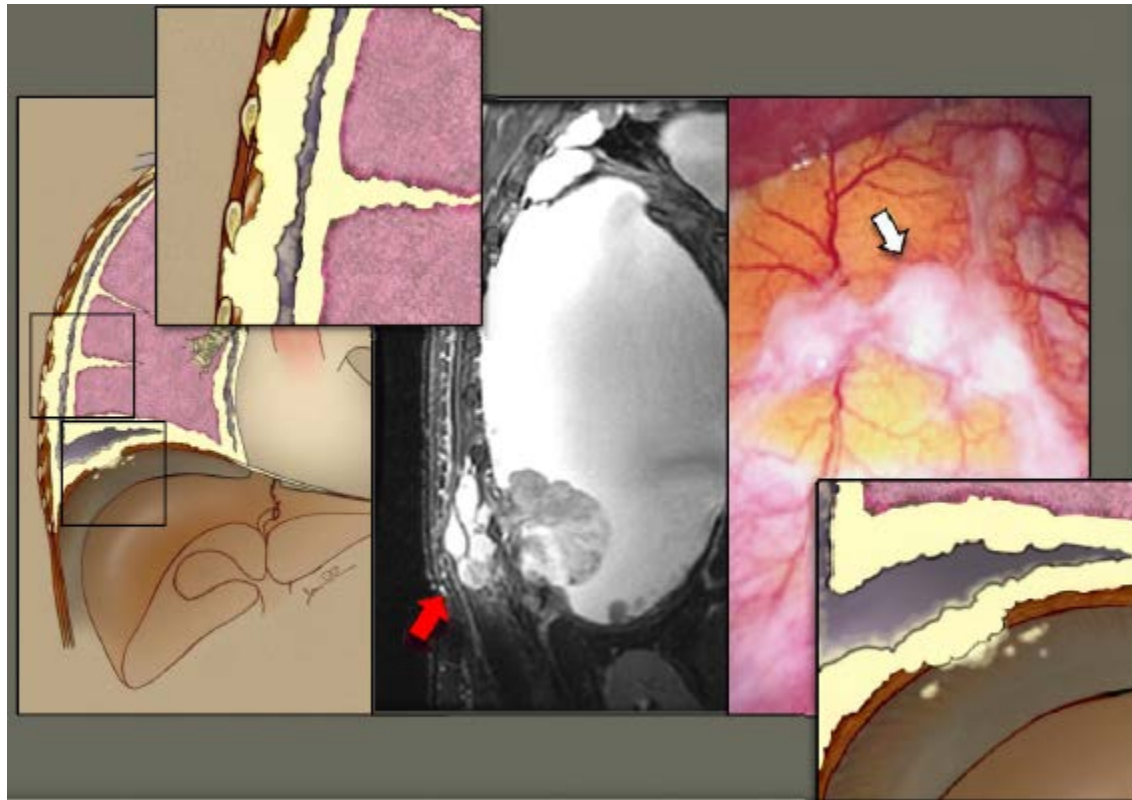
# Stage III



# Stage III

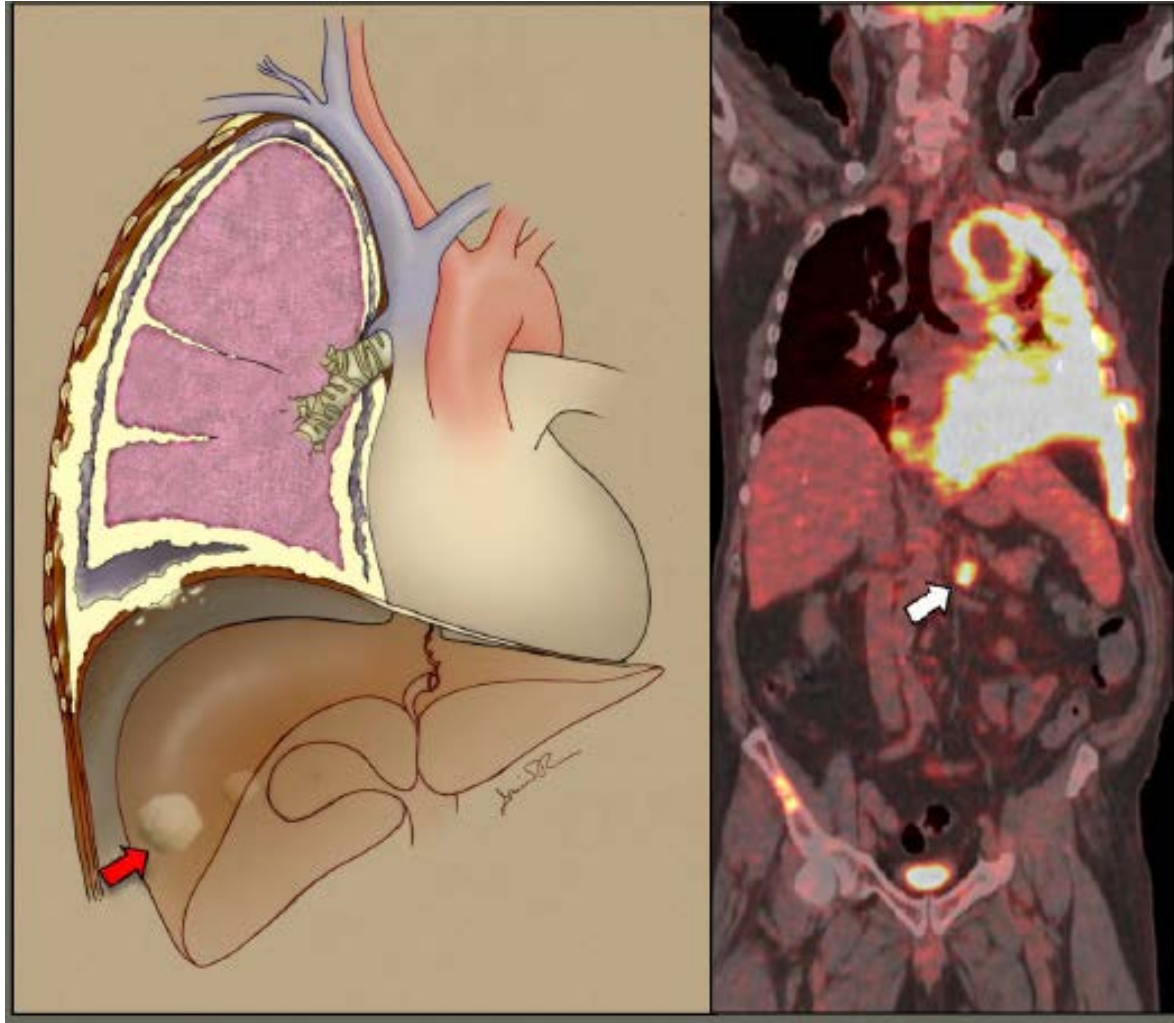


# Stage IV





# Stage IV



# MPM Treatment Options

“The only realistic treatment goal in advanced MPM is control of disease progression.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Nakas, Apostolos, et al. "Long-term survival after lung-sparing total pleurectomy for locally advanced (International Mesothelioma Interest Group Stage T3–T4) non-sarcomatoid malignant pleural mesothelioma." *European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery* 41.5 (2012): 1031-1036.

# MPM Treatment Options

- Median survival is ~9 – 12 months<sup>6</sup>
- No known curative treatment<sup>6</sup>
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Surgery
  - Radical Extrapleural pneumonectomy (EPP)
  - Radical pleurectomy/decortication (P/D)
  - Pleurodesis

<sup>6</sup>Lang-Lazdunski, Loïc, et al. "Pleurectomy/decortication is superior to extrapleural pneumonectomy in the multimodality management of patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma." *Journal of Thoracic Oncology* 7.4 (2012): 737-743.

# MPM Treatment Options

## Chemotherapy

- Cisplatin and pemetrexed
- ~ 3-month survival benefit<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup>Vogelzang, Nicholas J., et al. "Phase III study of pemetrexed in combination with cisplatin versus cisplatin alone in patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma." *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 21.14 (2003): 2636-2644.

# MPM Treatment Options

## FDA Pemetrexed Approval

On February 4, 2004, the FDA approved pemetrexed disodium for injection (Alimta®), made by Eli Lilly and Company) in combination with cisplatin for the treatment of patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma whose disease is either unresectable or who are not otherwise candidates for curative surgery.

# MPM Treatment: Surgery

## EPP

En bloc resection of lung, pleura, pericardium, and diaphragm

## P/D

Resection of the parietal and visceral pleurae, pericardium, and diaphragm when necessary, but sparing lung

--

Keep existing tissue planes intact (pericardium, diaphragm, etc.) to prevent seeding of additional areas

<sup>8</sup>Flores, Raja M., et al. "Extrapleural pneumonectomy versus pleurectomy/decortication in the surgical management of malignant pleural mesothelioma: results in 663 patients." *The Journal of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery* 135.3 (2008): 620-626.

# MPM Treatment: Surgery

## EPP

- Radical surgery
- Allows higher radiation doses
- Longer disease free period
- Less local recurrence
- Higher mortality and morbidity
- Patient selection: less comorbidities
- At best: R1 resection

## P/D

- Radical surgery
- Lower radiation doses & more specialized technique
- Disease free period shorter
- Local recurrence
- Lower mortality and morbidity
- Patient selection: more comorbidities
- At best: R1 resection

Table 2.

Site of first recurrence after extrapleural pneumonectomy versus pleurectomy/decortication

	EPP (n = 219) n (%)	P/D (n = 133) n (%)
Local recurrences	73 (33%)	86 (65%)
Ipsilateral chest	68 (31%)	84 (63%)
Pericardium	5 (2%)	2 (2%)
Distant recurrences	146 (66%)	47 (35%)
Contralateral lung/pleura	49 (22%)	14 (11%)
Peritoneum	57 (26%)	24 (18%)
Peritoneum + chest	17 (8%)	1
Abdominal viscera	12 (5%)	4 (3%)
Bone	7 (3%)	–
Brain	1	1
Cutaneous (distant)	1	1
Other	2	2 (2%)

*EPP*, Extrapleural pneumonectomy; *P/D*, pleurectomy/decortication.

Flores, Raja M., et al. "Extrapleural pneumonectomy versus pleurectomy/decortication in the surgical management of malignant pleural mesothelioma: results in 663 patients." *The Journal of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery* 135.3 (2008): 620-626.



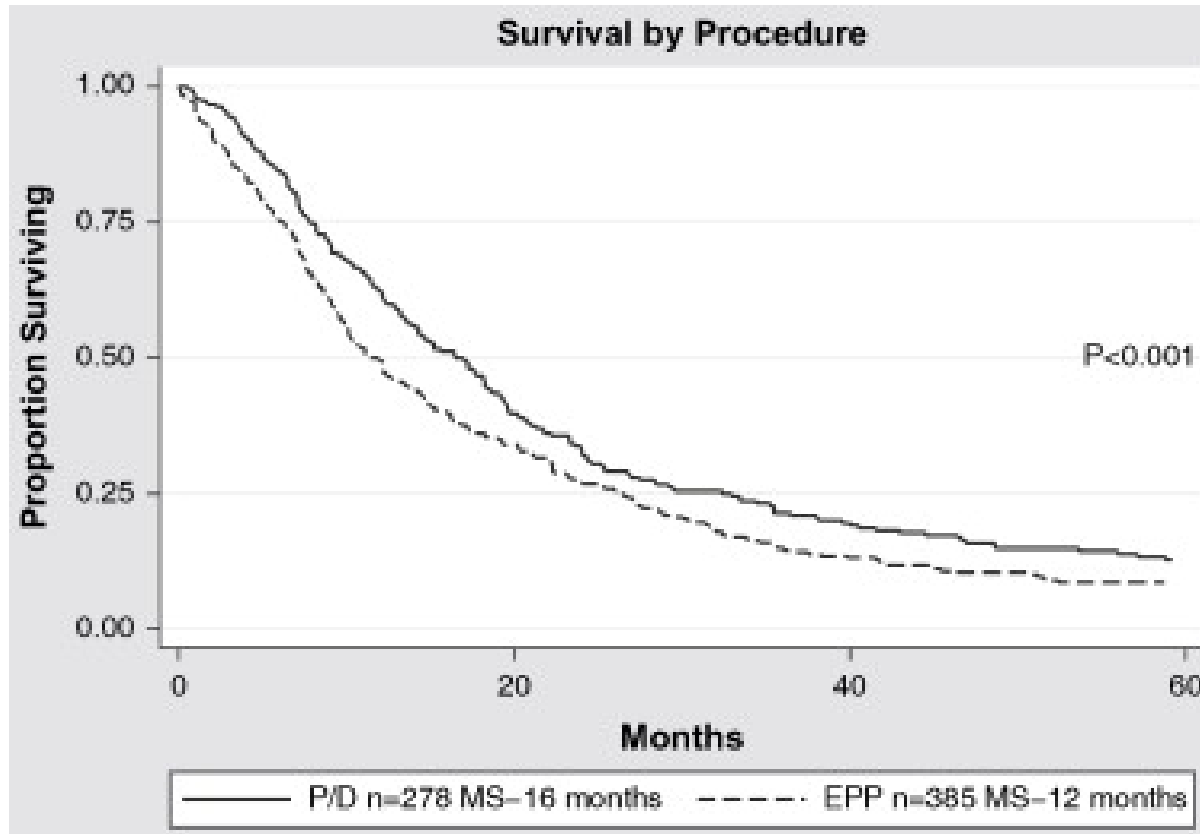


Figure 3 Overall survival of EPP versus P/D, by univariate analysis. EPP, Extrapleural pneumonectomy; P/D, pleurectomy/decortication.

Raja M. Flores , Harvey I. Pass , Venkatraman E. Seshan , Joseph Dycoco , Maureen Zakowski , Michele Carbone , Man...

**Extrapleural pneumonectomy versus pleurectomy/decortication in the surgical management of malignant pleural mesothelioma: Results in 663 patients**

The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Volume 135, Issue 3, 2008, 620 - 626.e3

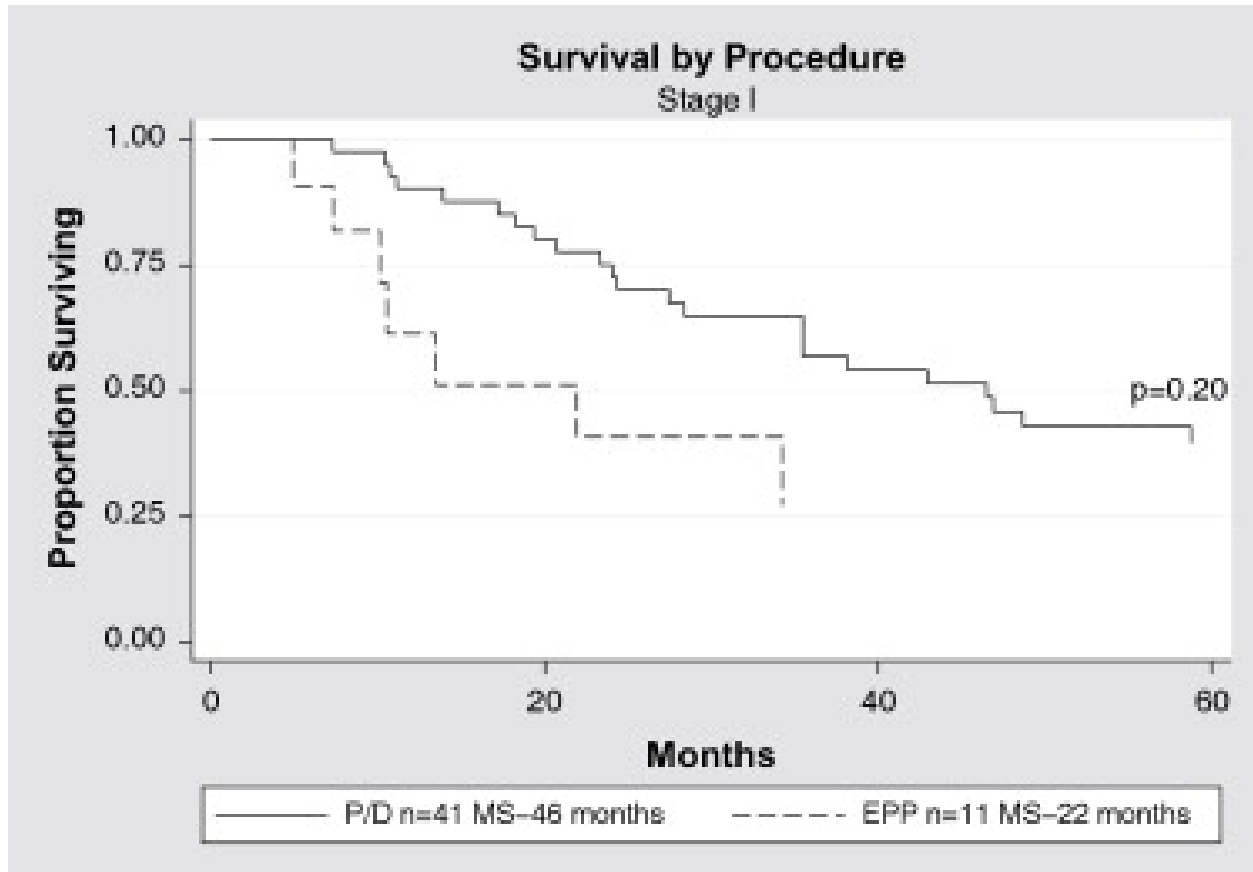


Figure 4 Overall survival of EPP versus P/D for patients with stage I. EPP, Extrapleural pneumonectomy; P/D, pleurectomy/decortication.

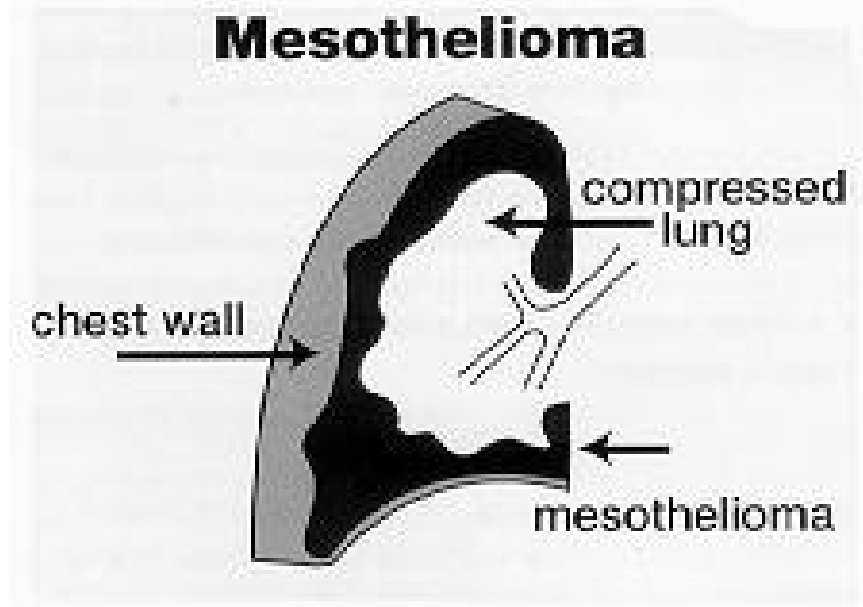
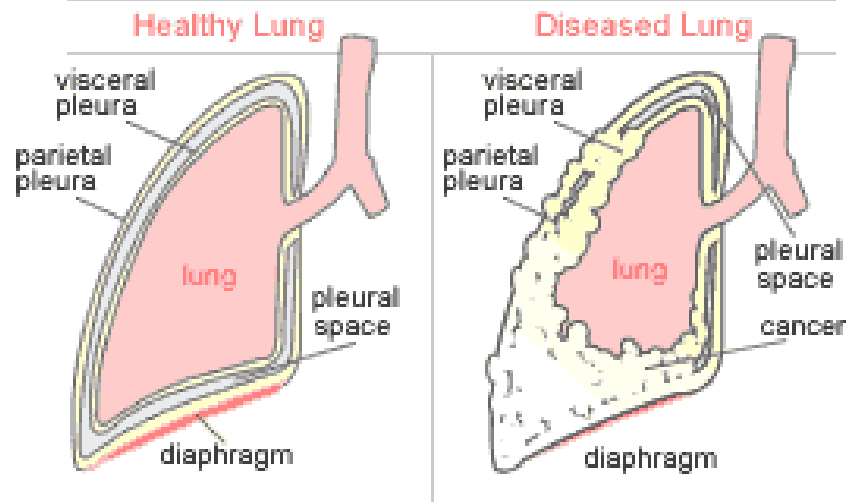
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# Mesothelioma: The Problem

## Pleural Mesothelioma

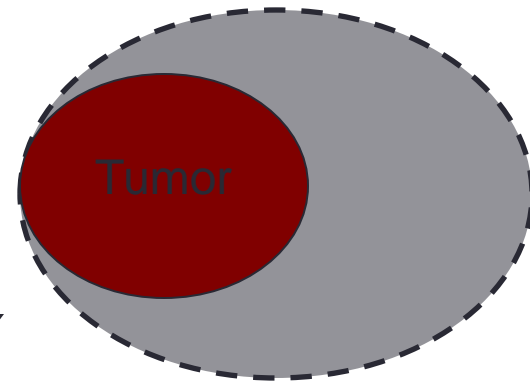
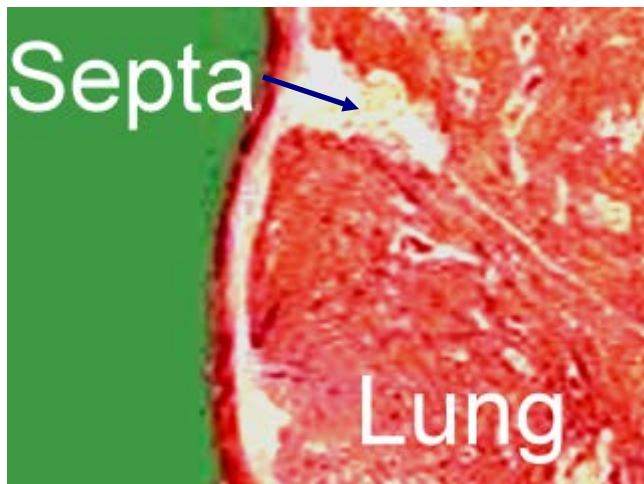


# MPM Treatment: Surgery

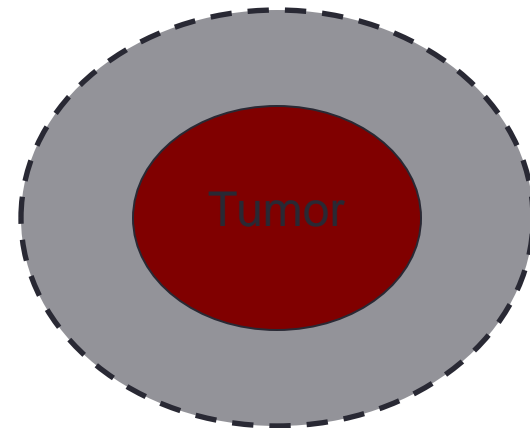
## Classification of Surgical Oncology Resections

- R0: Radical resection (amputation, muscle groups, wide local resection with 2-3 cm margins)
- R1: Marginal resection (within tumor “capsule”)
- R2: Incomplete resection of gross tumor

# Mesothelioma: The Problem



Marginal Resection



Radical Resection

# MPM Treatment: The Problem

“You are only as good as your  
**CLOSEST** surgical margin”

# Mesothelioma: EPP versus P/D

	<u>EPP</u>	<u>P/D</u>
Margins	Minimal	Minimal
$\Delta$ PFT's	---	+/-
Mortality	3-6%	<1%
Operative time	Intermediate	Long
Surgeon's Fee	\$1348.46-\$2676.83	\$1249.68-\$2444.26
Ages	Younger	Almost any
Lung Status	Good PFT's	Almost any
Radiation	Easy	Hard
Recurrence	Hard to detect	Easy to detect

# Mesothelioma: “Rational” Therapy

- Surgery may provide benefit from “debulking” tumor mass (ovarian cancer as prototype)
- Radical procedures do not provide safer “margin” than more conservative procedures
- Radiation may provide benefit with microscopic disease
- Chemotherapy provides minimal benefit



# Mesothelioma: GLA VA Approach

- Radical parietal pleurectomy
- Complete pulmonary decortication (radical visceral pleurectomy)
- Removal of all pleural tumor off diaphragm, pericardium, mediastinum, and hilum
- Lymph node dissection
- Preservation of all tissue planes possible
- Postoperative radiation therapy
- Novel biologic therapies when available

# Mesothelioma: GLA VA Surgical Goals

- Remove/destroy all tumor (gross)
- Preserve tissue boundaries
- Preserve vital organ function
- Use effective adjuvant therapies
- Use maintenance therapies
- Develop screening/detection tests
- Develop prevention strategies

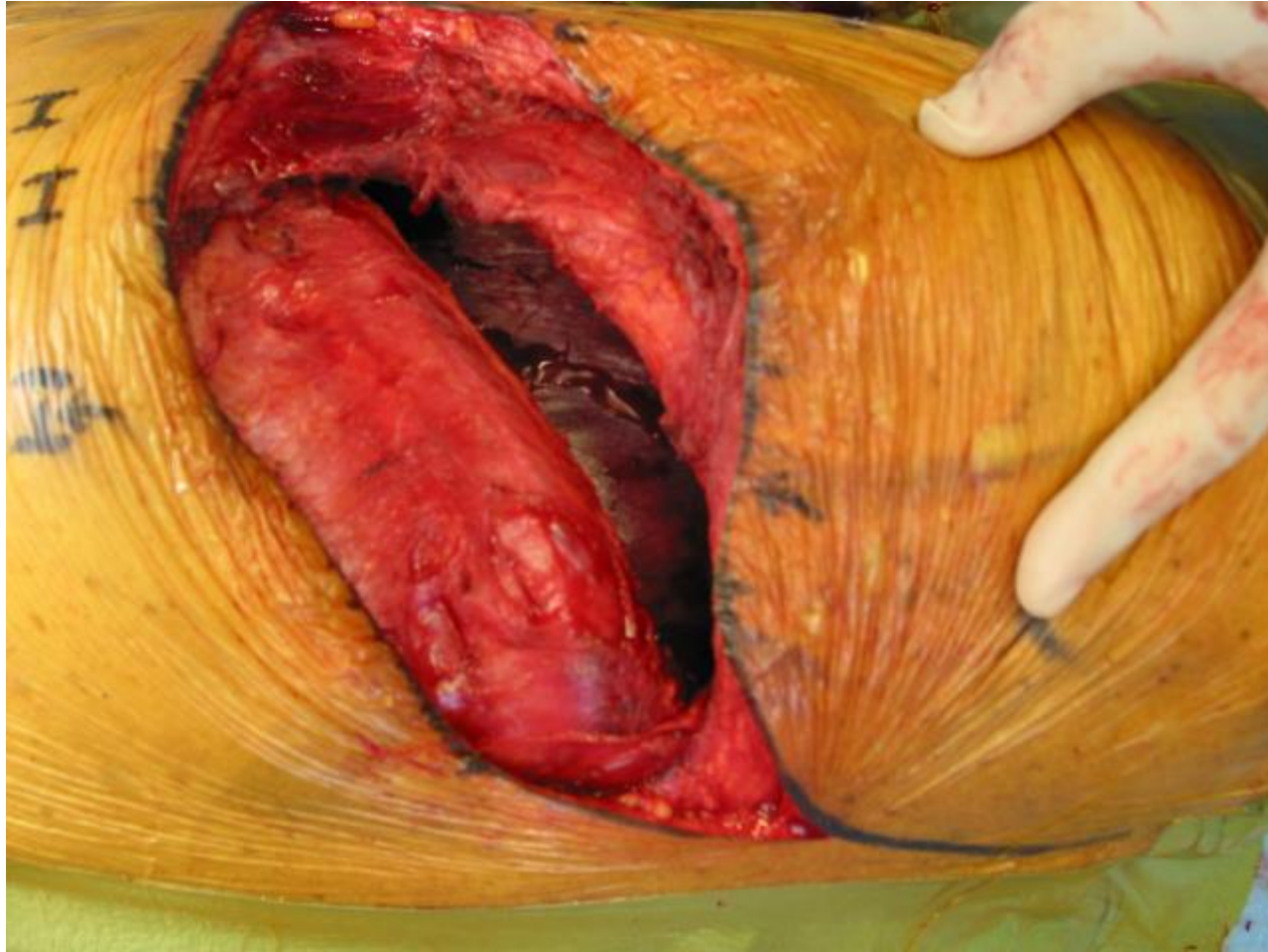
# Mesothelioma: GLA VA P/D

## The Incision



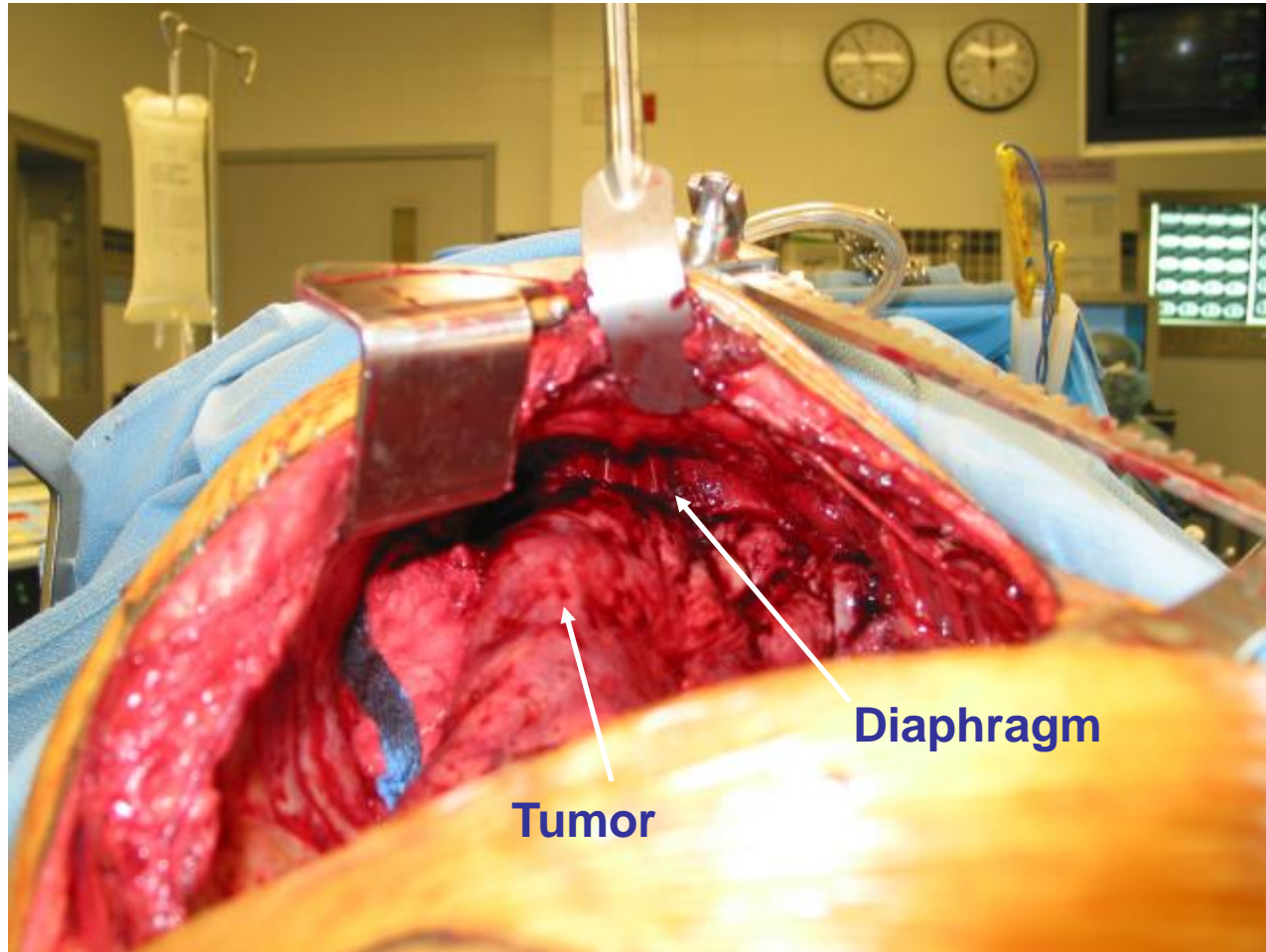
# Mesothelioma: GLA VA P/D

## Initial View



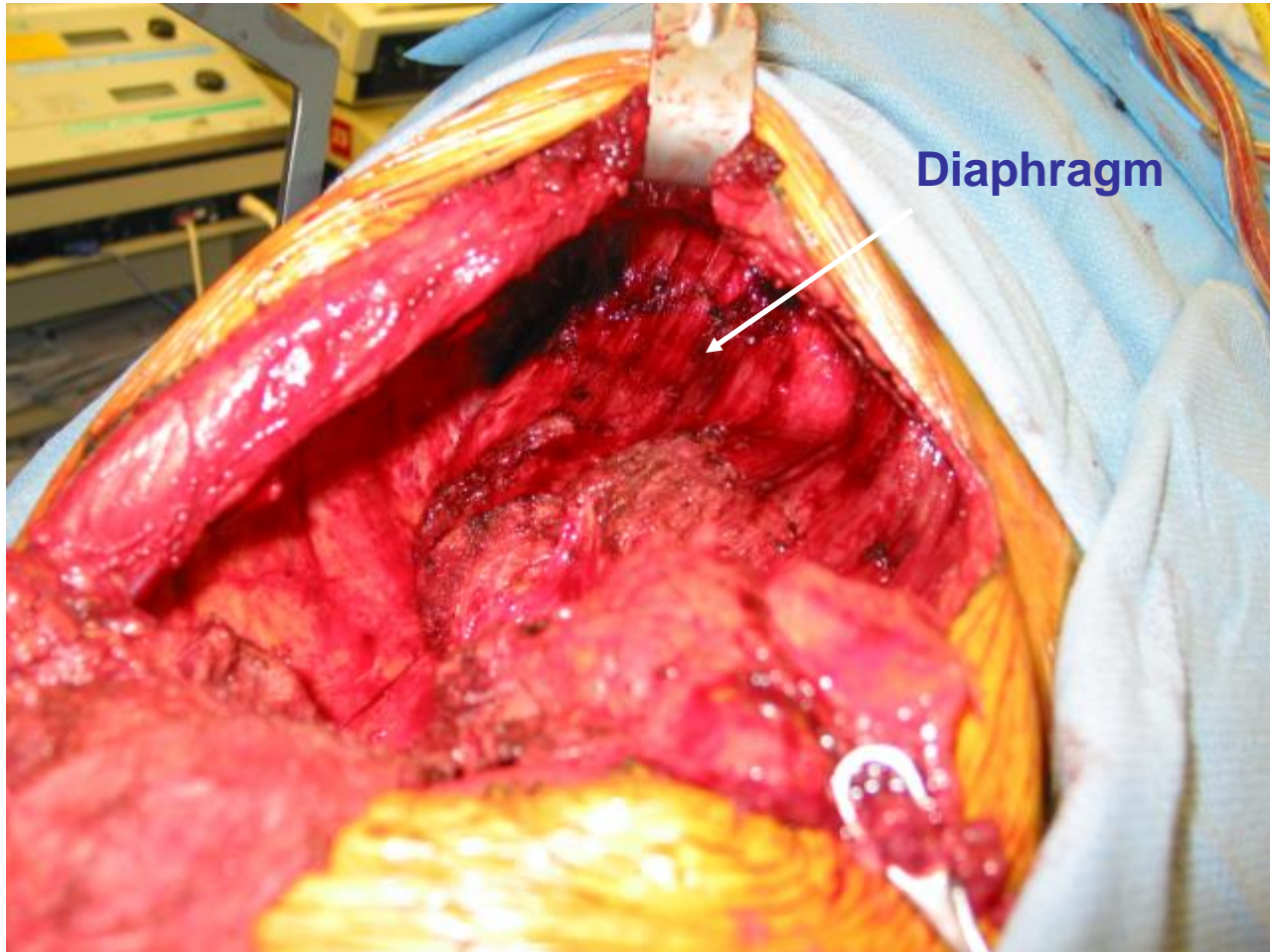
# Mesothelioma: The UCLA P/D

## Chest Wall Retractor



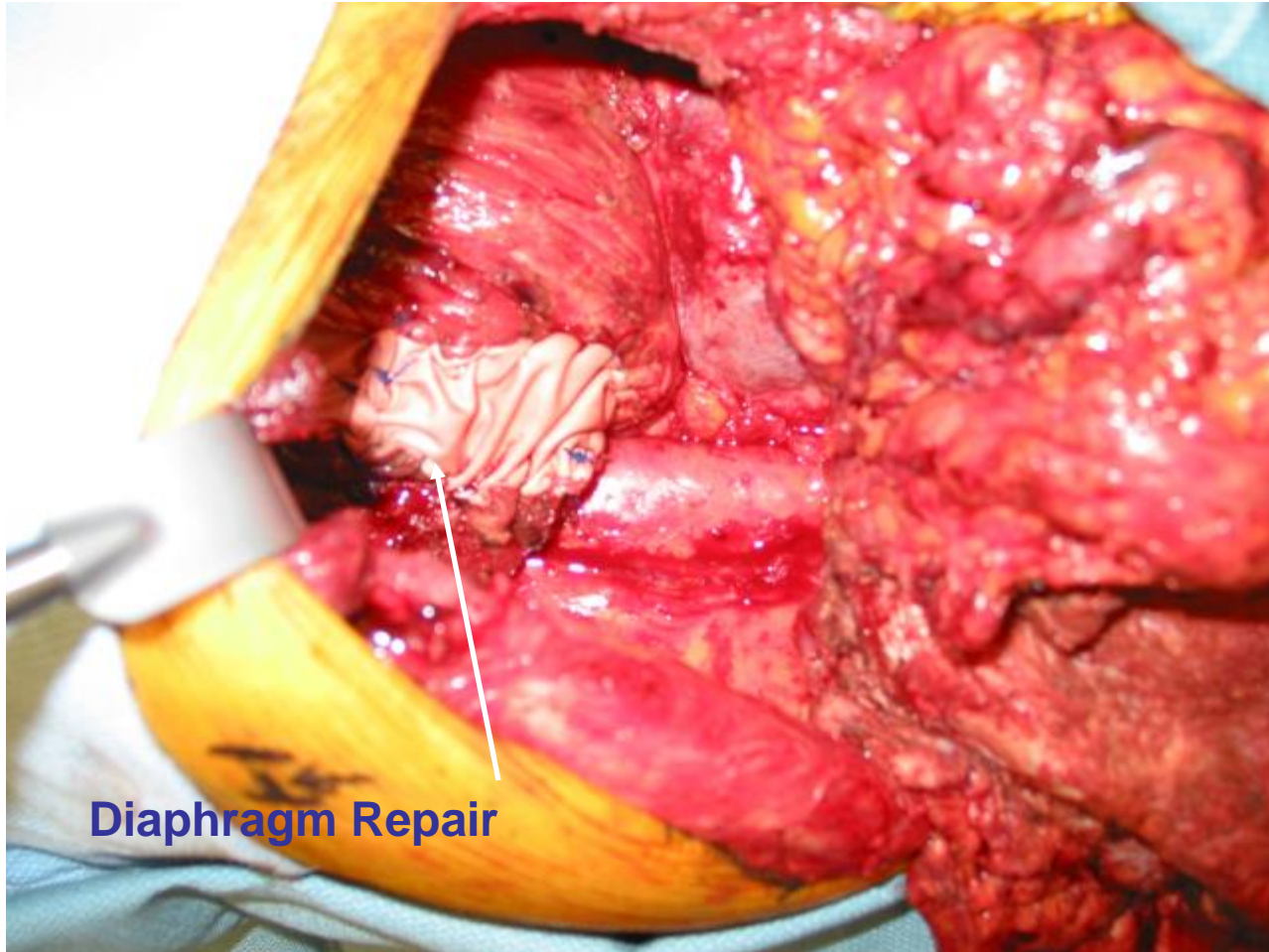
# Mesothelioma: GLA VA P/D

## Diaphragm



# Mesothelioma:GLA VA P/D

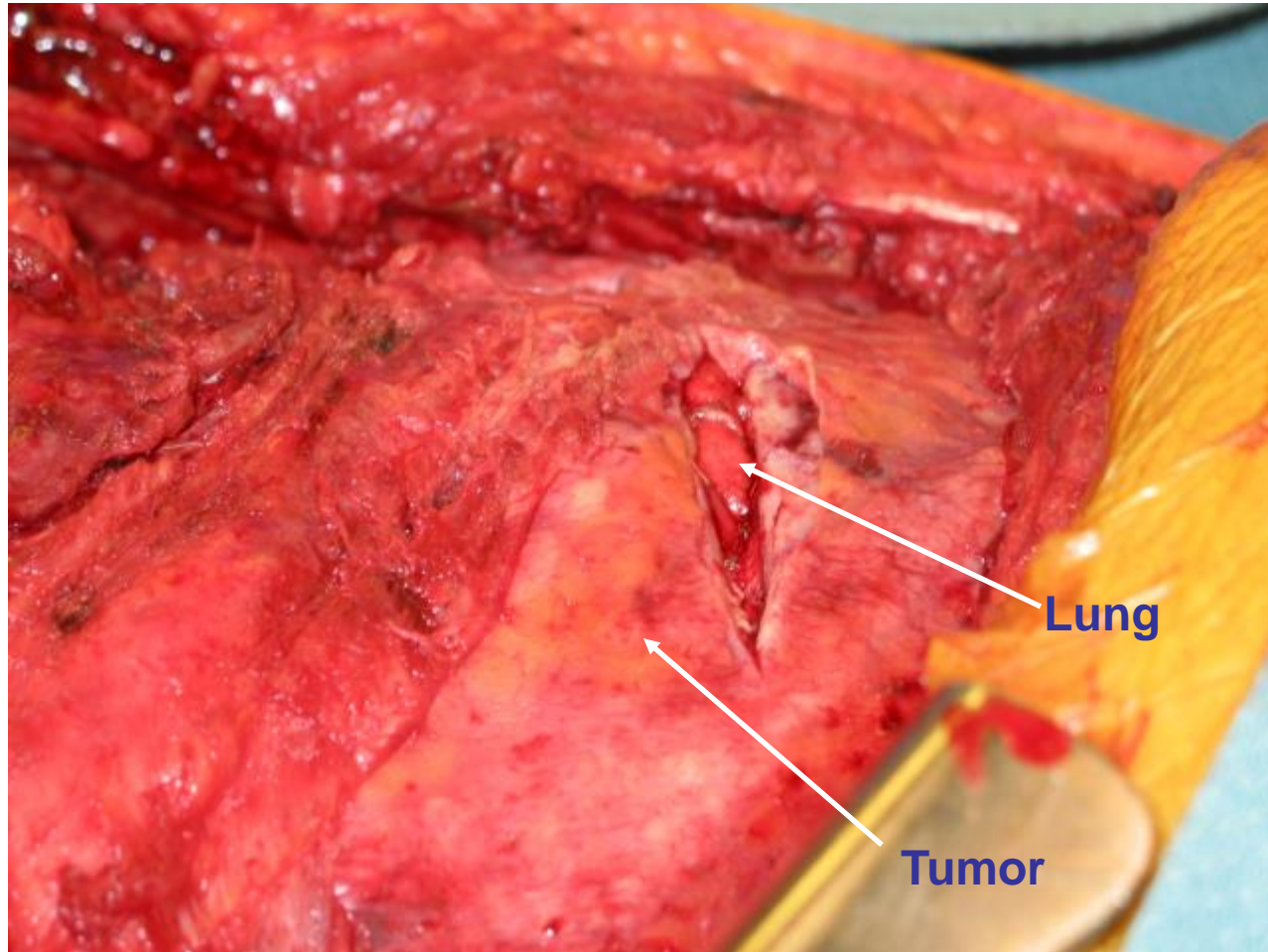
## Diaphragm Repair



Diaphragm Repair

# Mesothelioma:GLA VA P/D

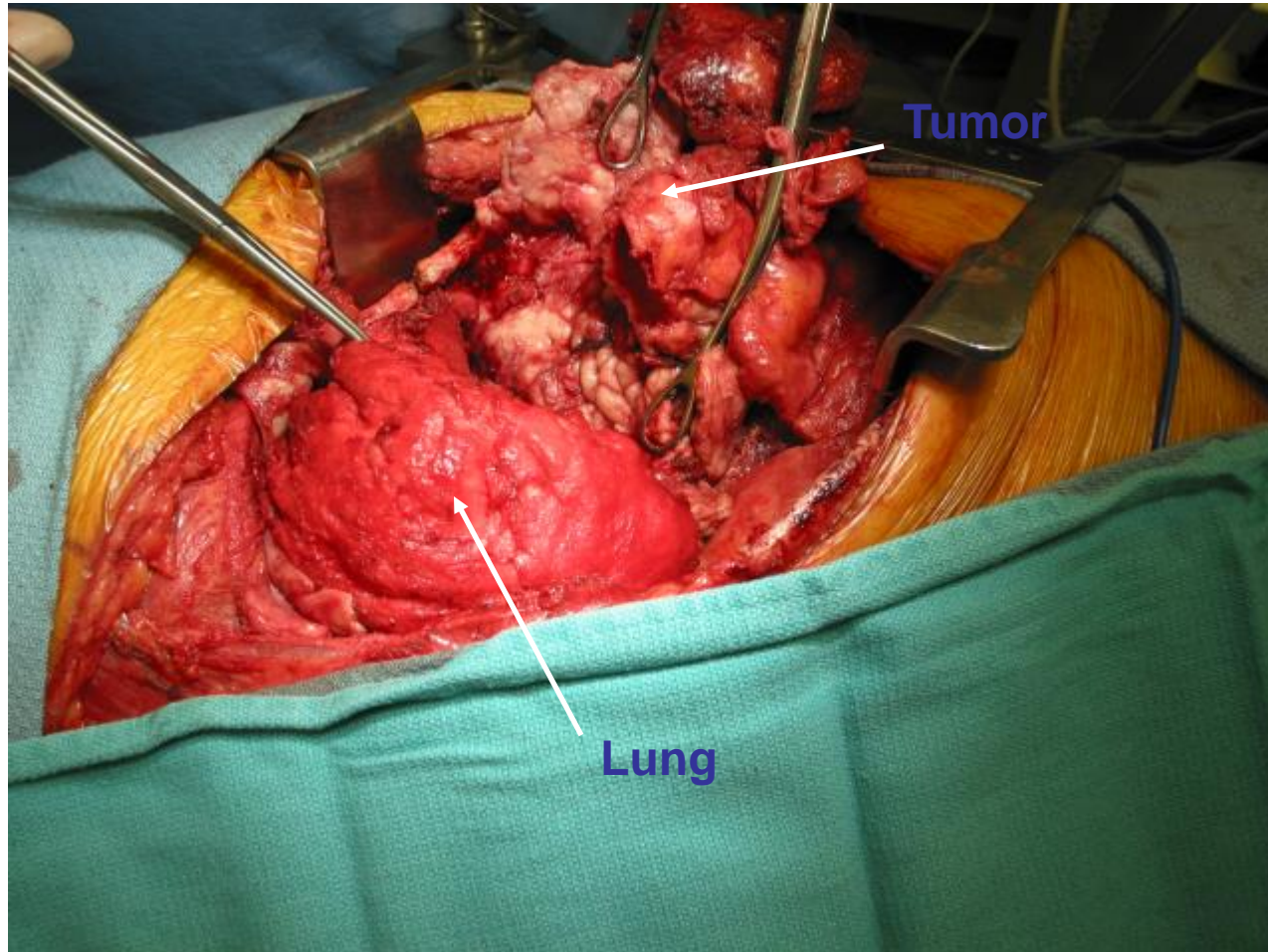
## Visceral Pleurectomy





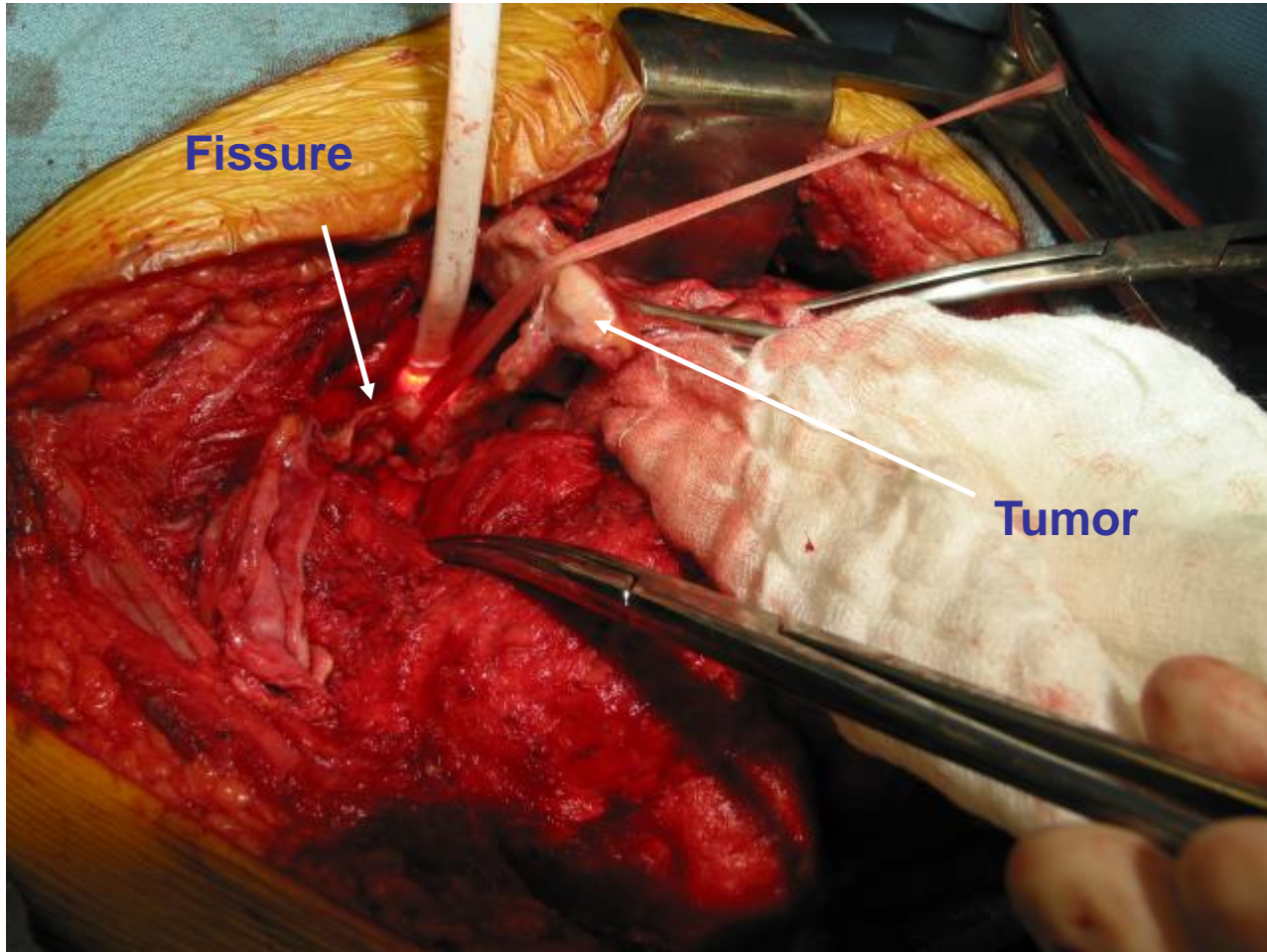
# Mesothelioma: GLA VA P/D

## Decortication



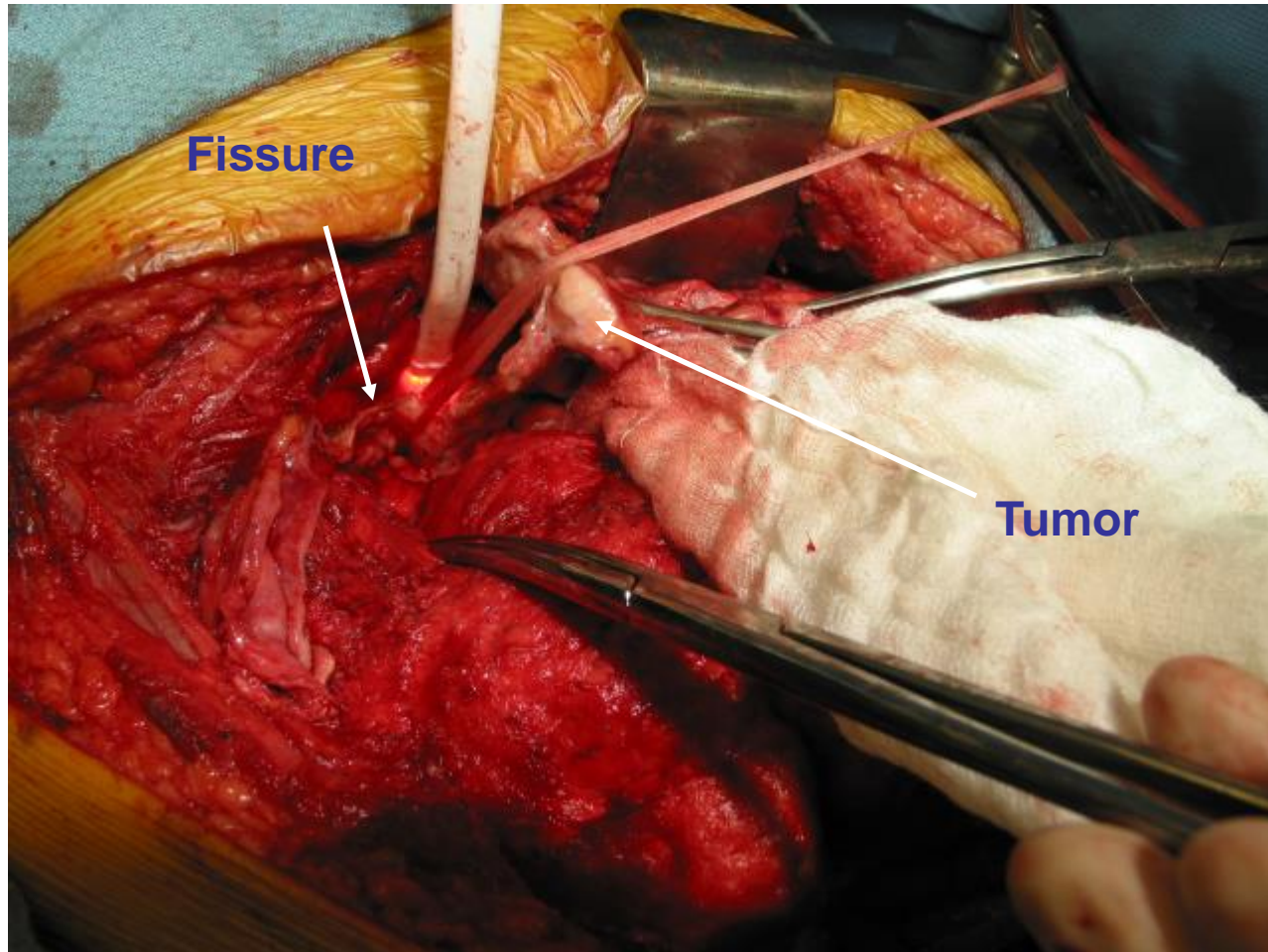
# Mesothelioma:GLA VA P/D

## Tumor in the Fissure



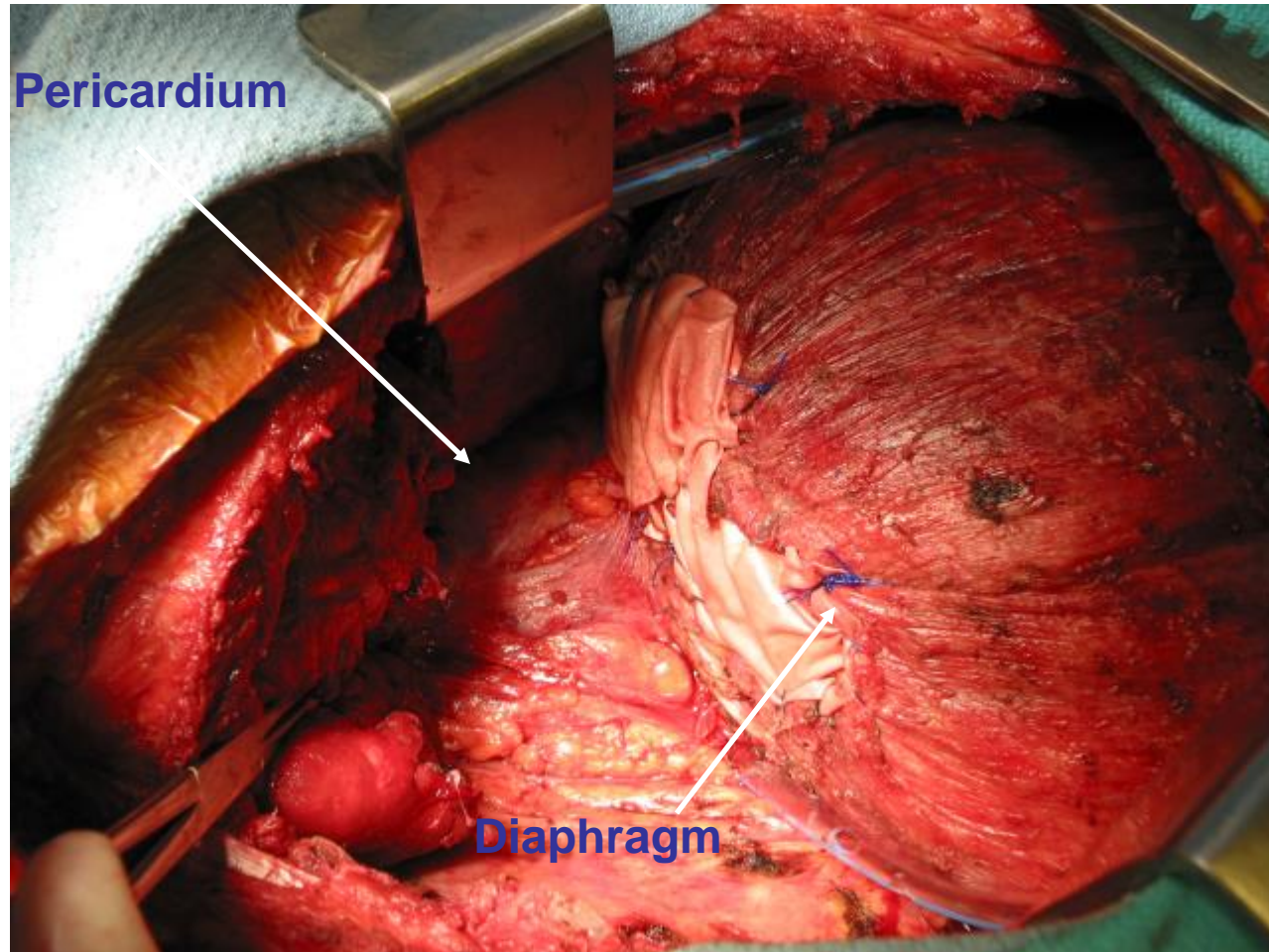
# Mesothelioma: GLA VA P/D

## Tumor in the Fissure



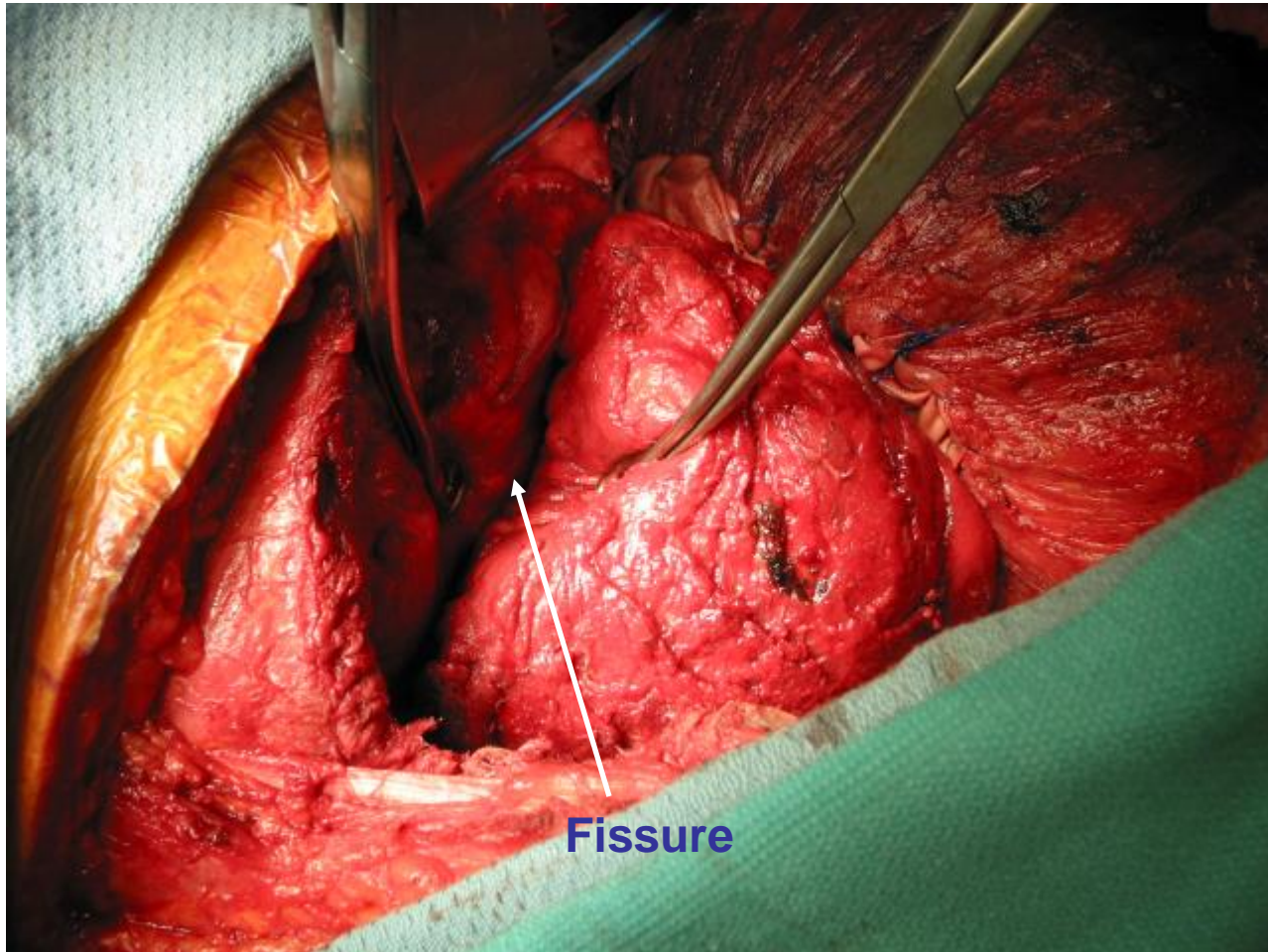
# Mesothelioma: GLA VA P/D

## Pericardium



# Mesothelioma:GLA VA P/D

## Complete Decortication



# Mesothelioma: GLA VA P/D

## Final Appearance



# Mesothelioma: GLA VA P/D

## Pathology Specimen

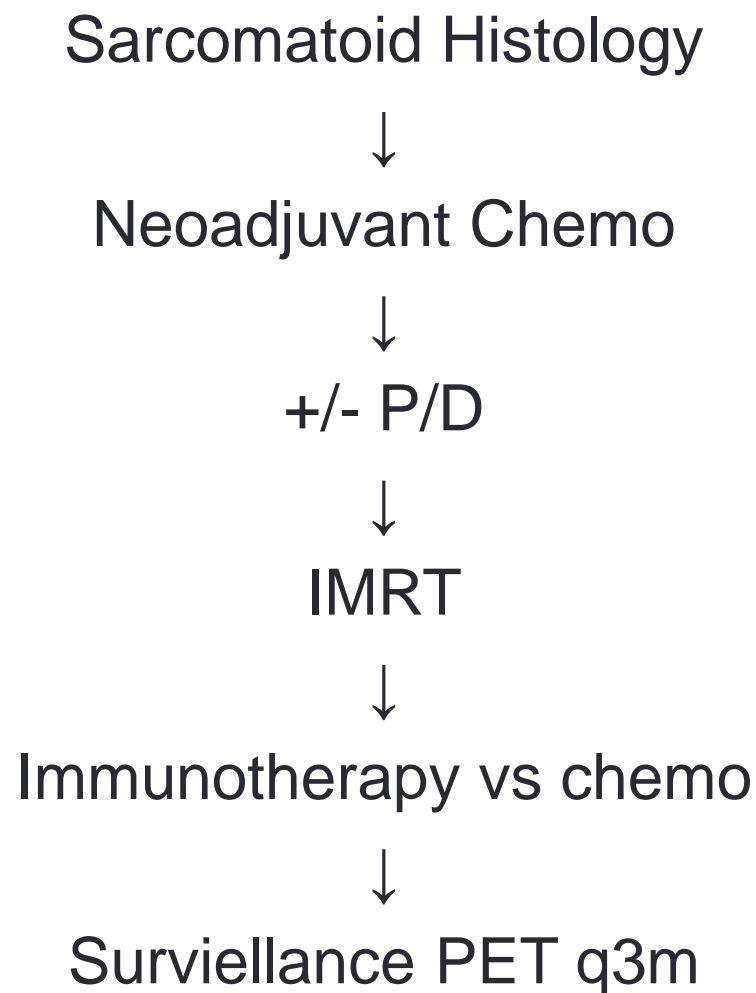
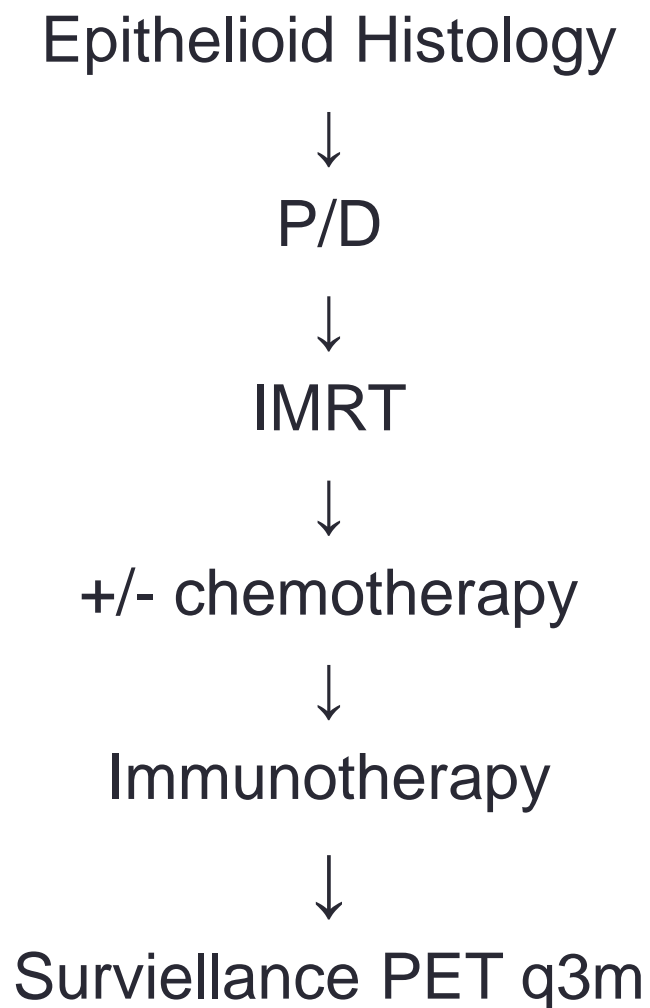


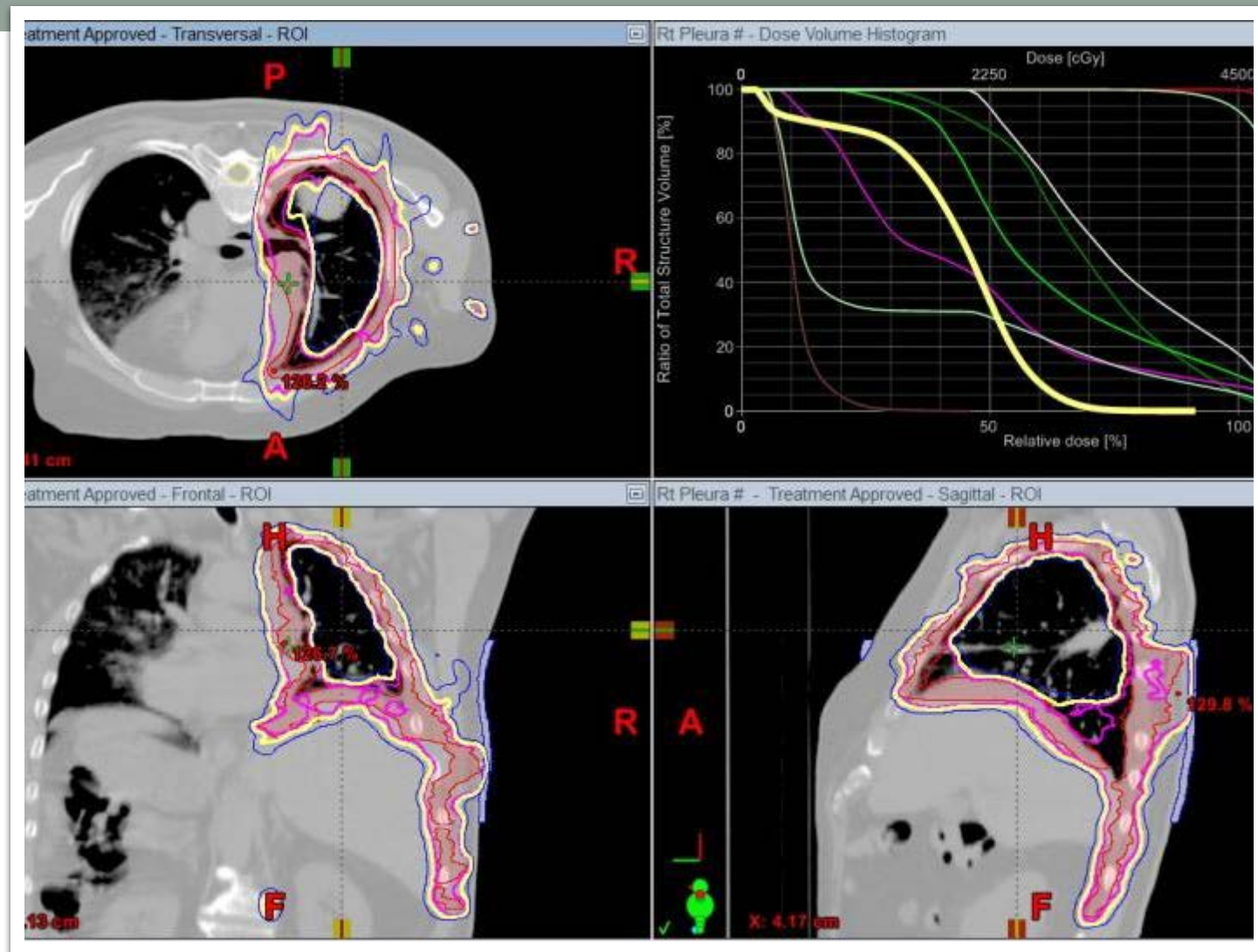
# P/D Post-op Management

- ICU care (at UCLA: PCU care)
- Average LOS 10 days
- Extubate in OR
- CT x4 to -20 cm H<sub>2</sub>O continuous wall suction
- Begin ambulation POD1
- Epidural x 7-8 days
- Replace pleural fluid drainage
- DC f/c POD2



# MPM: GLA VA Protocol

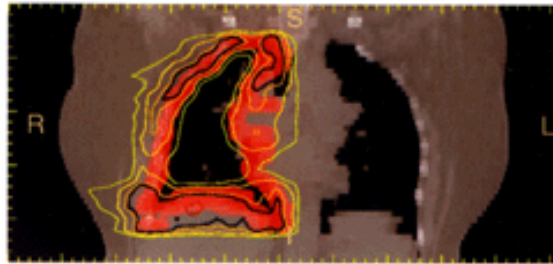




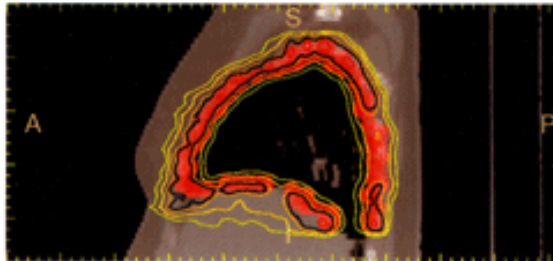
## Neoadjuvant IMRT

Goal is to radiate edges and surgical incision while sparing the lung

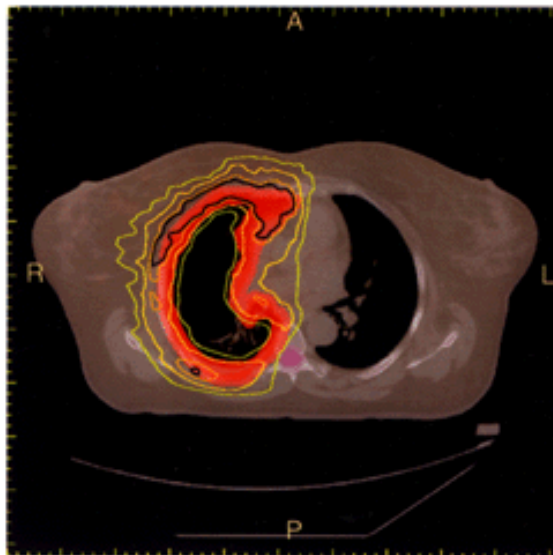
# Mesothelioma: IMRT



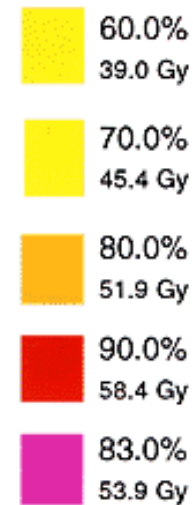
Coronal Image 270



Sagittal Image 319

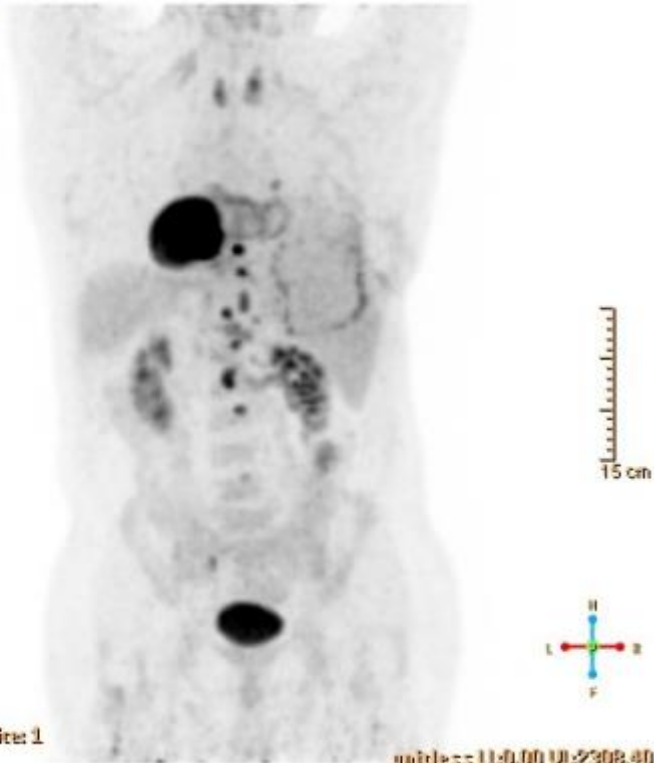


Axial Image 121

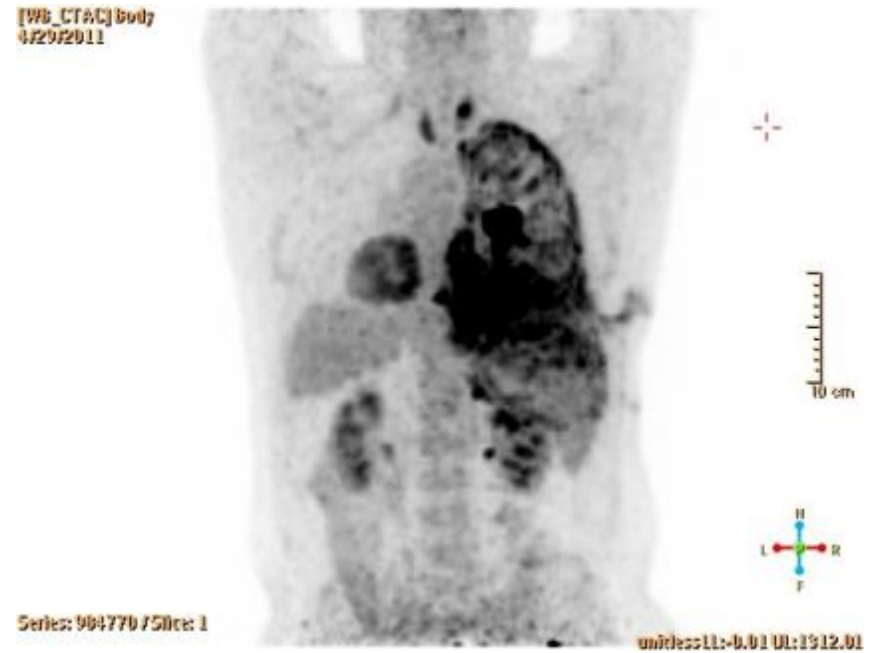


# Mr. S Before and After

[WB\_CTAC] Body  
9/27/2011

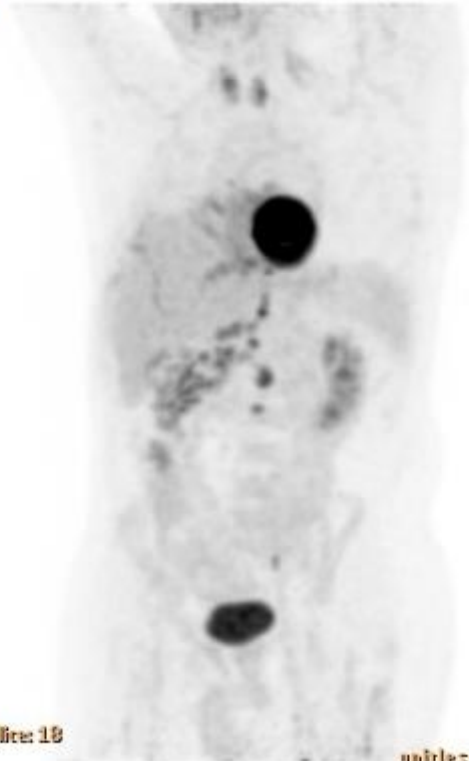


[WB\_CTAC] Body  
4/29/2011

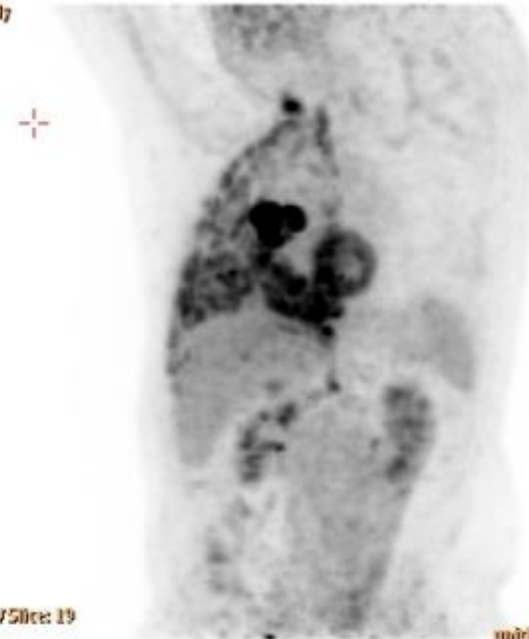


# Mr. S Before and After

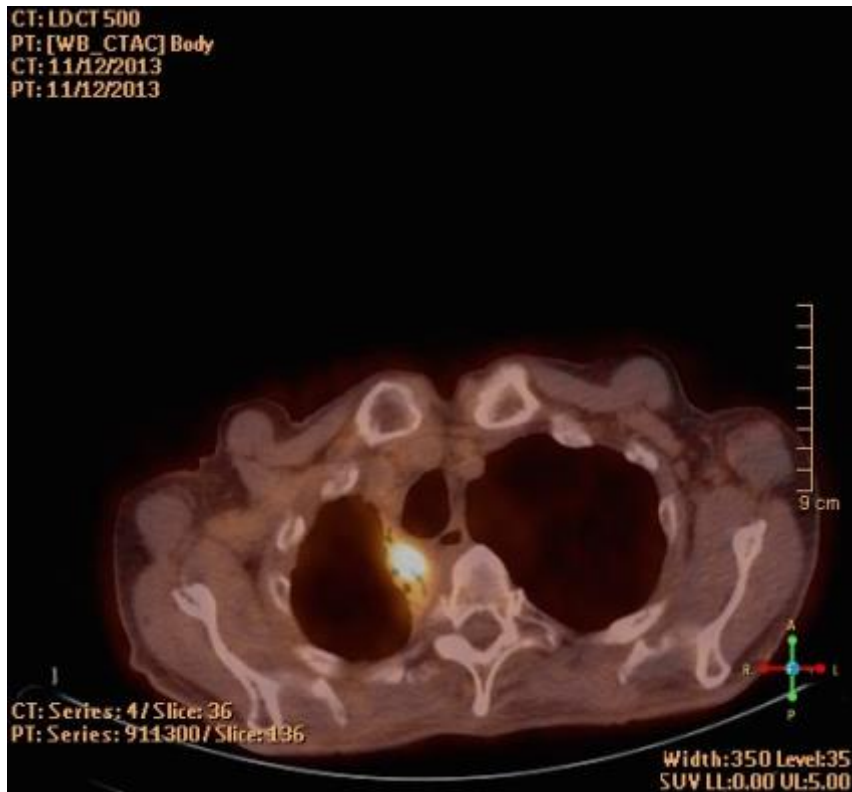
[WB\_CTAC] Body  
9/27/2011



[WB\_CTAC] Body  
4/29/2011



# Cryoablation



# References

- <sup>1</sup> Wagner JC, et al. Meso and asbestos in NW Cape Prov. Br J Ind Med 1960;17:260-71
- <sup>2</sup> American Cancer Society
- <sup>3</sup> Delgermaa V, Takahashi K, Park EK, et al. Global mesothelioma deaths reported to the World Health Organization between 1994 and 2008. Bull World Health Organ 2011;89:716-24, 724A-724C.
- <sup>4</sup> Stermann, D. H., & Albelda, S. M. (2005). Advances in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of malignant pleural mesothelioma. *Respirology*, 10(3), 266-283.
- <sup>5</sup> Nakas, Apostolos, et al. "Long-term survival after lung-sparing total pleurectomy for locally advanced (International Mesothelioma Interest Group Stage T3–T4) non-sarcomatoid malignant pleural mesothelioma." *European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery* 41.5 (2012): 1031-1036.
- <sup>6</sup> Lang-Lazdunski, Loïc, et al. "Pleurectomy/decortication is superior to extrapleural pneumonectomy in the multimodality management of patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma." *Journal of Thoracic Oncology* 7.4 (2012): 737-743
- <sup>7</sup> Vogelzang, Nicholas J., et al. "Phase III study of pemetrexed in combination with cisplatin versus cisplatin alone in patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma." *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 21.14 (2003): 2636-2644.
- <sup>8</sup> Flores, Raja M., et al. "Extrapleural pneumonectomy versus pleurectomy/decortication in the surgical management of malignant pleural mesothelioma: results in 663 patients." *The Journal of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery* 135.3 (2008): 620-626.