



# NATIONAL ASBESTOS LITIGATION CONFERENCE

Charleston, SC | September 16-17, 2025

## Talc Litigation Overview



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*Gordon Rees Scully  
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# Talc Verdicts 2025 – California

- ***Estate of Keith W. Slawson v. Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC et al.***

- **Venue:** Los Angeles County, CA
- **Date:** 3/19/2025
- **Judge:** Hon. Freixes
- **Pltf:** 67-year-old (deceased) mesothelioma alleging exposure from his consumer talc use
- **Firm:** Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd
- **Verdict:** \$3.5M verdict against Vanderbilt Minerals

- ***John Doomey and Elizabeth Doomey v. Albertsons Companies, et al.***

- **Venue:** Los Angeles County, CA
- **Date:** 4/21/2025
- **Judge:** Roger T. Ito
- **Pltf:** 75-year-old (living) peritoneal mesothelioma alleging exposure from his use of Johnson & Johnson baby powder
- **Firm:** Dean Omar Branham & Shirley
- **Verdict:** Defense Verdict



# Talc Verdicts 2025 – Pennsylvania



- ***Estate of Michaeleen Lee v. Johnson & Johnson, et al.***
  - **Venue:** Allegheny County, PA
  - **Date:** 1/6/2025
  - **Judge:** Hon. Regan
  - **Pltf:** 78-year-old (deceased) mesothelioma alleging exposure from his consumer talc use of Johnson & Johnson powder
  - **Firm:** Dean Omar Branham & Shirley
  - **Verdict:** Defense Verdict



# Talc Verdicts 2025 – Louisiana



- ***Jeannine Henderson v. Taylor-Seidenbach, Inc., et al.***
  - **Venue:** Orleans Parish, LA
  - **Date:** 5/7/2025
  - **Judge:** Hon. Reese
  - **Pltf:** 72-year-old (deceased) mesothelioma alleging exposure from her use of Johnson & Johnson baby powder
  - **Firm:** Dean Omar Branham & Shirley
  - **Verdict:** \$3M verdict against Johnson & Johnson



# Talc Verdicts 2025 – New York



- ***Estate of Anna Bishop v. Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC,***
  - **Venue:** St. Lawrence County, NY
  - **Date:** 9/4/2025
  - **Judge:** Hon. Davenport
  - **Pltf:** 78-year-old (deceased) mesothelioma alleging exposure from environmental exposure to Vanderbilt talc mines
  - **Firm:** Iola Gross & Forbes-King  
Belluck Law Firm
  - **Verdict:** \$12.25M verdict against Vanderbilt Minerals



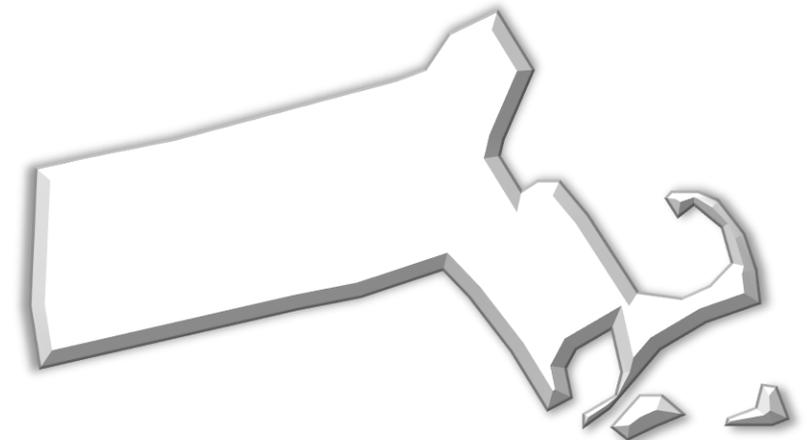
# Talc Verdicts 2025 – Massachusetts

- ***Janice Paluzzi v. Johnson & Johnson, et al.***

- Venue: Suffolk County, MA
- Date: 6/18/2025
- Judge: Hon. Belezos
- Pltf: 83-year-old (living) mesothelioma alleging exposure from her use of Johnson & Johnson baby powder
- Firm: Dean Omar Branham & Shirley
- Verdict: \$8M verdict against Johnson & Johnson

- ***Paul Lovell and Kathryn Lovell v. Johnson & Johnson***

- Venue: Middlesex County, MA
- Date: 7/29/2025
- Judge: Hon. Cowan
- Pltf: 65-year-old (living) peritoneal mesothelioma alleging exposure from his use of Johnson & Johnson baby powder
- Firm: Dean Omar Branham & Shirley
- Verdict: \$42.6M verdict against Johnson & Johnson



CIPRIANO  
RAMIREZ vs.  
AVON  
PRODUCTS  
July 26, 2024

- Plaintiffs' Verdict – \$24.4 Million
- Illinois (Cook Co.)
- Judge – Hon. Clare McWilliams
- Cipriano Ramirez (Living)
- Plaintiffs' Counsel – Simmons Hanly Conroy
- Defense Counsel – Foley Mansfield



# CIPRIANO RAMIERZ vs. AVON PRODUCTS

## July 26, 2024

1. We, the jury, find for Plaintiff, Cipriano Ramirez and against Avon Products, Inc.:

Yes  No

If you mark "No," then you must sign the verdict form and stop.

If you mark "Yes," then proceed to the next sentence.

We assess the damages as follows:

The reasonable expense of necessary medical care and treatment. The parties have stipulated that the amount billed for medical services for the treatment of Cipriano Ramirez's mesothelioma is \$1,387,946.06:

\$ 1,400,000

The reasonable value of past and future economic losses for social security income, pension income and value of household services. The parties have stipulated that the value of these losses is \$809,055.00:

\$ 810,000

The shortened life expectancy of Cipriano Ramirez.

\$ 16,000,000

The disfigurement resulting from the injury to Cipriano Ramirez.

\$ 500,000

The emotional distress experienced by Cipriano Ramirez and reasonably certain to be experienced in the future.

\$ 500,000

The loss of a normal life experienced by Cipriano Ramirez and reasonably certain to be experienced in the future.

\$ 250,000

The pain and suffering experienced by Cipriano Ramirez and reasonably certain to be experienced in the future as a result of his injuries.

\$ 7,000,000

2. We, the jury, find for Plaintiff, Maria Ramirez and against Avon Products, Inc.:

Yes  No

If you mark "Yes", then proceed to the next sentence.

We assess damages for the reasonable value of the society, companionship and sexual relationship with her husband of which she has been deprived and the society, companionship and sexual relationship with her husband of which she is reasonably certain to be deprived in the future as:

\$ 3,000,000

8301

3. We, the jury, find that Avon Products, Inc.'s conduct was willful and wanton.

Yes  No

If you mark "No", then you must stop. If you mark "Yes", then proceed to the next sentence.

We assess punitive damages against Avon in the following amount:

\$ 4,000,000

8301

MICHAEL PERRY  
vs. JOHNSON &  
JOHNSON and All  
August 15, 2024

- Plaintiffs' Verdict – \$63,000,000+
- Economic Loss (past & future) – \$3,800,000
- Other Damages (past & future) – \$19,237,500
- Loss of Consortium (past & future) – \$9,618,750
- Punitive Damages – J&J (\$30,000,000) and All (\$760,000)
- South Carolina (Richland Co.)
- Judge – Honorable Jean Hoefer Total
- Michael Perry (Liv) – 53 y/o
- Plaintiffs' Counsel – DOBS and Kassell McVey
- Defense Counsel – Fox Rothchild LLP & Nelson Mullins



# MICHAEL PERRY vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON and AII

August 15, 2024

## VERDICT FORM

ID# 5

### NEGLIGENCE

1. We, the jury, find that Defendant the Johnson & Johnson entities were negligent, and its negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiff Michael Perry's injuries:

Yes

No

2. We, the jury, find that Defendant American International Industries (AII), was negligent, and its negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiff Michael Perry's injuries:

Yes

No

### STRICT LIABILITY

3. We, the jury, find that Defendant the Johnson & Johnson entities are strictly liable for selling defective products that was a proximate cause of Plaintiff Michael Perry's injuries:

Yes

No

4. We, the jury, find that Defendant American International Industries (AII) is strictly liable for selling defective products that was a proximate cause of Plaintiff Michael Perry's injuries:

Yes

No

### FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION

5. We, the jury, find that Defendant the Johnson & Johnson entities engaged in fraudulent misrepresentation in selling its products and that fraudulent misrepresentation was a proximate cause of Plaintiff Michael Perry's injuries:

Yes

No

6. We, the jury, find that Defendant American International Industries (AII) engaged in fraudulent misrepresentation in selling its products and that fraudulent misrepresentation was a proximate cause of Plaintiff Michael Perry's injuries:

Yes

No

### DAMAGES

7. If you answered "Yes" to any of Questions 1-6, please state the amount of actual damages that have been proven by the greater weight of the evidence:

Michael Perry's economic loss (past & future) \$ 3,800,000

Michael Perry's other damages (past & future) \$ 19,237,500

Lonnie Long's loss of consortium damages (past & future) \$ 9,618,750

# MICHAEL PERRY vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON and A-I-I

August 15, 2024

## WILLFUL, WANTON OR RECKLESS CONDUCT

8. If you answered "Yes" to Questions 1, 2, 5, or 6, please answer this question as to any Defendant for which you answered "Yes." We, the jury, find by clear and convincing evidence that the conduct of the following Defendants was willful, wanton, or reckless:

Johnson & Johnson

Yes

No

American International Industries (AII)

Yes

No

Foreperson \_\_\_\_\_

August 15, 2024  
Date

## PUNITIVE DAMAGES VERDICT FORM

1. As to Plaintiff Michael Perry's claims against Defendant Johnson & Johnson entities for punitive damages, we, the jury, by unanimous consent, find:

for Michael Perry in the amount of \$ 30,000,000 punitive damages  
(\$30 Million)

3. As to Plaintiff Michael Perry's claims against Defendant American International Industries for punitive damages, we, the jury, by unanimous consent, find:

for Michael Perry in the amount of \$ 700,000 punitive damages

Foreperson \_\_\_\_\_

August 15, 2024  
Date

McBRIDE  
AM 9:00  
10

EVAN PLOTKIN  
vs. JOHNSON  
& JOHNSON  
October 15, 2024

- Plaintiffs' Verdict – \$15,000,000
- Connecticut (Fairfield at Bridgeport)
- Judge – Honorable Barbara N. Bellis
- Evan Plotkin (Liv) – 67 y/o
- Plaintiffs' Counsel – DOBS and Early Lucarelli
- Defense Counsel – Shook Hardy & Bacon



# EVAN PLOTKIN vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON

## October 15, 2024

### JURY INTERROGATORIES

#### SUCCESSOR LIABILITY

1. Do you find, by a fair preponderance of the evidence, that the following entities are the successors-in-interest to Johnson & Johnson and/or Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. (old JJCI) on the basis that they merely continued the business of Johnson & Johnson and/or Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. (old JJCI) as defined in the court's jury charge on the mere continuation/continuity of enterprise rule?

Kenvue, Inc. YES  NO   
Johnson & Johnson Holdco (NA), Inc. YES  NO

2. Do you find, by a fair preponderance of the evidence, that the following entities are the successors-in-interest to Johnson & Johnson and/or Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. (old JJCI) on the basis of the product-line rule of successor liability in that they continued to manufacture the same line of talc products alleged to have caused injury to Plaintiff Evan Plotkin as defined in the court's jury charge on the product-line rule?

Kenvue, Inc. YES  NO   
Johnson & Johnson Holdco (NA), Inc. YES  NO

### PLAINTIFFS' VERDICT FORM

We the jury find the issues for the plaintiff, EVAN PLOTKIN, as against the following

Defendants for which a checkmark is placed next to that Defendant's name:

- Johnson & Johnson  
 Pecos River Talc, LLC  
 Johnson & Johnson Holdco (NA) Inc.  
 Kenvue, Inc.  
 LLT Management LLC

and award fair, just and reasonable compensatory damages in the amount as follows:

\$15 million

SIGNED BY THE FOREPERSON

*Sen Mills*

DATED

October 15, 2024

*Verdict Ordered Accepted and Recorded  
October 15, 2024 3:35 pm  
Judge C. Reed*

# EVAN PLOTKIN vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON

## October 15, 2024

### STRICT LIABILITY

3. Did the plaintiff prove, by a fair preponderance of the evidence, that the following defendants' products to which Mr. Plotkin was exposed were sold in a defective condition unreasonably dangerous to the consumer or user as defined in the court's jury charge on strict liability?

Johnson & Johnson	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Pecos River Talc, LLC	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Kenvue, Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Johnson & Johnson Holdco (NA), Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
LLT Management LLC (f/k/a LTL Management, LLC)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

### NEGLIGENCE

4. Did the plaintiff prove by a fair preponderance of the evidence that the following defendants were negligent in that they failed to use ordinary care in the sale of Johnson's Baby Powder as defined in the court's jury charge on negligence?

Johnson & Johnson	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Pecos River Talc, LLC	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Kenvue, Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Johnson & Johnson Holdco (NA), Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
LLT Management LLC (f/k/a LTL Management, LLC)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

### WARNINGS

5. Did the plaintiff prove by a fair preponderance of the evidence that the following defendants' products to which Mr. Plotkin was exposed were in a defective condition because the defendants failed to provide adequate warnings or instructions as defined in the court's jury charge on failure to warn?

Johnson & Johnson	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Pecos River Talc, LLC	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Kenvue, Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Johnson & Johnson Holdco (NA), Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
LLT Management LLC (f/k/a LTL Management, LLC)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered "Yes" to any one of questions #3, #4, and #5, proceed to the next question. If you answered "No" to each of #3, #4, and #5, then you are directed to sign defendant's verdict form.

### CAUSATION

6. Did the plaintiff prove by a fair preponderance of the evidence that a product defect or negligence by the following defendants was a proximate cause that led to the development of Mr. Plotkin's injury for which he seeks compensation as defined in the court's jury charge on proximate cause?

Johnson & Johnson	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Pecos River Talc, LLC	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Kenvue, Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Johnson & Johnson Holdco (NA), Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
LLT Management LLC (f/k/a LTL Management, LLC)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered "Yes," proceed to the next questions. If you answered "No," then you are directed to sign defendant's verdict form.

### COMPENSATORY DAMAGES

7. What damages, if any, has the plaintiff proven by a fair preponderance of evidence are fair, just and reasonable compensatory damages for the injuries sustained by Plaintiff Evan Plotkin as defined in the court's jury charge on damages?

\$ 15 million

### FAILURE TO MITIGATE DAMAGES

8. What damages (if any, as set forth in your response to Question 7) have defendants proven by a fair preponderance of the evidence were the result of plaintiff's failure to mitigate damages as defined in the court's jury charge on duty to mitigate damages:

\$ 0

### PUNITIVE DAMAGES

9. The jury finds as follows on whether the plaintiff has proven by a fair preponderance of the evidence that punitive damages, as defined in the court's jury charge on punitive damages, should be awarded against the following defendants:

Johnson & Johnson	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Pecos River Talc, LLC	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Kenvue, Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Johnson & Johnson Holdco (NA), Inc.	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
LLT Management LLC (f/k/a LTL Management, LLC)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

[Signature] 10/15/2024  
 SIGNED BY JURY FOREPERSON DATED  
 PRINT:

E/O  
MICHAEELEEN  
LEE vs.  
JOHNSON &  
JOHNSON  
January 4, 2025

- DEFENSE VERDICT –  
Johnson & Johnson
- Pennsylvania (Allegheny  
Co.)
- Judge – Honorable Phillip  
J. Ignelzi
- Michaeleen Lee (Dec) –  
70 y/o
- Plaintiffs' Counsel –  
DOBS
- Defense Counsel – Kelley  
Jasons McGowan



# E/O MICHAEELEEN LEE vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON

## January 4, 2025

### QUESTION 4

Did Michaelleen Lee rely to her detriment on any statement of material fact that was made by Johnson & Johnson, to conceal or omit material information about the safety of the product at issue as proven by clear and convincing evidence?

YES  NO

If you have answered "YES" to Question 4 please proceed to Question 5.  
If you have answered "NO" to Question 4 please proceed to Question 6.

### QUESTION 5

Was Michaelleen Lee's detrimental reliance on any statement of material fact made to conceal or omit material information by Johnson & Johnson about the safety of the product at issue a factual cause of harm to Michaelleen Lee?

YES  NO

Please proceed to Question 6.

### QUESTION 6

Did Michaelleen Lee rely to her detriment on any statement or conduct of material fact intentionally or negligently made by Johnson & Johnson which misrepresented the safety of the product at issue as proven by clear and convincing evidence?

YES  NO

If you have answered "YES" to Question 6, please proceed to Question 7.  
If you have answered "NO" to Question 6, please proceed to Question 8.

### VERDICT SLIP

#### QUESTION 1

Were any of the following entities negligent?

Avon:  YES  NO  
Colgate Palmolive Company:  YES  NO  
Estee Lauder Inc.:  YES  NO  
Imi Fabi:  YES  NO  
Johnson & Johnson:  YES  NO  
Scholl's Wellness Co., LLC:  YES  NO

If you have answered "YES" to any of the above please proceed to Question 2.  
If you have answered "NO" to all of the above please proceed to Question 4.

#### QUESTION 2

Was the negligence of any entity below a factual cause of any harm to Michaelleen Lee?  
**Only answer for entities for which you have chosen "YES" in Question 1.**

Avon:  YES  NO  
Colgate Palmolive Company:  YES  NO  
Estee Lauder Inc.:  YES  NO  
Imi Fabi:  YES  NO  
Johnson & Johnson:  YES  NO  
Scholl's Wellness Co., LLC:  YES  NO

# E/O MICHAEELEN LEE vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON

January 4, 2025

## QUESTION 7

Was Michaeleen Lee's detrimental reliance on any statement or conduct of material fact intentionally or negligently made by Johnson & Johnson misrepresenting the safety of the product at issue a factual cause of harm to Michaeleen Lee?

\_\_\_ YES     NO

Only proceed to Question 8 if any of the following have occurred:

- a. If you have answered "YES" for any entity at Questions 1 & 2 and/or;
- b. If you answered "YES" for both Questions 4 & 5; and/or
- c. If you answered "YES" for both Questions 6 & 7.

## QUESTION 9

Do you find Johnson & Johnson's conduct in this case warrants a finding of Punitive Damages?

YES    \_\_\_ NO

If you have answered "NO" to Question 9 answer no further Questions. You have reached a verdict and the foreperson should sign and date the form. Please inform Court Staff you have reached a verdict.

If you have answered "YES" to Question 9, please proceed to Question 10

## QUESTION 10

What amount of Punitive Damages, if any, do you award the Plaintiff's in this case?

\$ 2.2 million

**FOREPERSON MUST SIGN AND DATE BELOW**

1-4-25  
DATE

  
SIGNATURE OF FOREPERSON

**Please advise the Court Officer you have reached a verdict.**

Keith Slawson  
vs. RTV  
March 21,  
2025

- Plaintiffs' Verdict – \$3,500,000
- 12.5% liable
- California (County of Los Angeles)
- Judge Kwan
- Jeannine Henderson (Liv) – 72 y/o
- Plaintiffs' Counsel – Maune Raichle
- Exposure to RTV through residential construction sites using Kelly Moore's PACO joint compound in the 1970s



# Keith Slawson vs. RTV

## March 21, 2025

**Question No. 1:** Was Mr. Slawson exposed to an asbestos-containing product manufactured, distributed, supplied, or sold by Vanderbilt?

YES  NO

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, sign the Verdict Form and return to clerk.*

### Strict Product Liability – Manufacturing Defect

**Question No. 2:** Did Vanderbilt manufacture, distribute, supply, or sell an asbestos-containing product?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC YES  NO

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, sign the Verdict Form and return to clerk.*

**Question No. 3:** Did the product contain a manufacturing defect when it left Vanderbilt's possession?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC YES  NO

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, go to question 5.*

**Question No. 4:** Was the manufacturing defect a substantial factor in causing harm to Keith W. Slawson?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC YES  NO

*Answer the next question.*

### Strict Product Liability – Design Defect

**Question No. 5:** Did the product fail to perform as safely as an ordinary consumer would have expected it to perform when used or misused in an intended or reasonably foreseeable way?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC YES  NO

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, go to question 7.*

**Question No. 6:** Was the product's design a substantial factor causing harm to Keith Slawson?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC YES  NO

*Answer the next question.*

# Keith Slawson vs. RTV

## March 21, 2025

### Strict Product Liability – Failure to Warn

**Question No. 7:** Did the product have potential risks that were known or knowable in light of the scientific or medical knowledge that was generally accepted in the scientific community at the time of manufacture, distribution, supply, or sale?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC                      YES X      NO \_\_\_\_

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, go to question 12.*

**Question No. 8:** Did the potential risks present a substantial danger to persons using or misusing the product in an intended or reasonably foreseeable way?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC                      YES X      NO \_\_\_\_

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, go to question 12.*

**Question No. 9:** Would ordinary consumers have recognized the potential risks?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC                      YES \_\_\_\_      NO X

*If NO, answer the next question. If YES, go to question 12.*

**Question No. 10:** Did Vanderbilt fail to adequately warn of the potential risks?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC                      YES X      NO \_\_\_\_

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, go to question 12.*

**Question No. 11:** Was the lack of sufficient warning a substantial factor in causing harm to Keith Slawson?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC                      YES X      NO \_\_\_\_

*Answer the next question.*



# Keith Slawson vs. RTV

## March 21, 2025

### Fraud - Concealment

**Question No. 17:** Did defendant intentionally fail to disclose a fact that Keith W. Slawson did not know and could not reasonably have discovered?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC                      YES X      NO \_\_\_\_

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, go to the instructions after question 20*

**Question No. 18:** Did defendant intend to deceive Keith W. Slawson by concealing the fact?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC                      YES X      NO \_\_\_\_

*If YES, answer the next question. If NO, go to the instructions after question 20.*

**Question No. 19:** Had the concealed information been disclosed, would Keith W. Slawson reasonably have behaved differently?

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC                      YES \_\_\_\_      NO X

# Keith Slawson vs. RTV

## March 21, 2025

**Question No. 21:** As a result of Mr. Slawson's mesothelioma, Plaintiffs' total economic damages are: **\$550,018**

*Answer the next question.*

**Question No. 22:** As a result of Mr. Slawson's mesothelioma, what is the total amount of Plaintiffs' non-economic damages?

a. Mr. Slawson's past pain, mental suffering, loss of enjoyment in life, disfigurement, physical impairment, inconvenience, grief, anxiety, humiliation, and emotion distress:

**\$1,250,00.00**

b. The Slawson children's loss of Mr. Slawson's love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance,

protection, affection, society, moral support, training and/or guidance:

**\$750,000.00**

c. Mrs. Slawson's loss of Mr. Slawson's love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, moral support, training and guidance:

**\$1,000,000.00**

**TOTAL OF QUESTIONS 21, 22a, 22b, 22c: \$3,550,018.00**

*Answer the next question.*

# Keith Slawson vs. RTV

## March 21, 2025

**Question No. 23:** What percentage of responsibility, if any, for Plaintiff's harm do you assign to each of the following? (The total must equal 100%):

Defendant Vanderbilt Minerals LLC	<u>12.50</u> %
All Others	<u>87.50</u> %
Total:	<u>100%</u>

**Question No. 25:** Did an agent or employee of Vanderbilt engage in the conduct with malice, fraud, or oppression?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

JOHN  
DOOMEY vs.  
JOHNSON &  
JOHNSON  
APRIL 21,  
2025

- DEFENSE VERDICT –  
Johnson & Johnson
- California (Los Angeles  
Co.)
- Judge – Hon. Roger T. Ito
- John Doomey (Living)
- Plaintiffs' Counsel –  
DOBS
- Defense Counsel – King  
& Spalding LLP



# John Doomey vs. Johnson & Johnson

## APRIL 21, 2025

1 We, the jury, answer the questions submitted to us:

2

3 **SECTION A: NEGLIGENCE**

4 **QUESTION 1:** Was Defendant negligent?

5 Johnson & Johnson YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

6 LLT Management LLC YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

7 *If you answered "YES" to Question 1 for either defendant, answer Question 2 for that defendant.*

8 *If you answered "NO" for either defendant, do not answer Question 2 for that defendant. If you*

9 *answered "NO" for both defendants, then proceed to Section B.*

10 **QUESTION 2:** Was Defendant's negligence a substantial factor contributing to John Doomey's

11 risk of developing mesothelioma?

12 Johnson & Johnson YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

13 LLT Management LLC YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

14 *Proceed to Section B.*

15 **SECTION B: STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – MANUFACTURING DEFECT**

16 **QUESTION 3:** Did the Johnson's Baby Powder contain a manufacturing defect when it left

17 Defendant's possession?

18 Johnson & Johnson YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

19 LLT Management LLC YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

20 *If you answered "YES" to Question 3 for either defendant, answer Question 4 for that defendant.*

21 *If you answered "NO" for either defendant, do not answer Question 4 for that defendant. If you*

22 *answered "NO" for both defendants, then proceed to Section C.*

23

1 **SECTION C: STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT**

2 **QUESTION 5:** Did the Johnson's Baby Powder fail to perform as safely as an ordinary consumer

3 would have expected when used or misused in an intended or reasonably foreseeable way?

4 Johnson & Johnson YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

5 LLT Management LLC YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

6 *Answer the next question.*

7 **QUESTION 6:** Did the risks of the Johnson's Baby Powder's design outweigh the benefits?

8

9 Johnson & Johnson YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

10 LLT Management LLC YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

11 *If you answered "YES" to Question 5 OR 6 for either defendant, answer Question 7 for that*

12 *defendant. If you answered "NO" to Question 5 AND 6 for either defendant, do not answer*

13 *Question 7 for that defendant. If you answered "NO" to Question 5 AND 6 for both defendants,*

14 *then proceed to Section D.*

15 **QUESTION 7:** Was the design of the Johnson's Baby Powder a substantial factor contributing to

16 John Doomey's risk of developing mesothelioma?

17 Johnson & Johnson YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

18 LLT Management LLC YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

19 *Proceed to Section D.*

20 **SECTION D: STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN**

21 **QUESTION 8:** Did the Johnson's Baby Powder have potential risks that were known or

22 knowable in light of the scientific and medical knowledge that was generally accepted in the

23 scientific community at the time of sale?

24 Johnson & Johnson YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

25 LLT Management, LLC YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

26 *If you answered "YES" to Question 8 for either defendant, answer Question 9 for that defendant.*

27 *If you answered "NO" to Question 8 for either defendant, do not answer Questions 9, 10, 11 or*

28 *12 for that defendant.*

JEANNINE  
HENDERSON  
vs. JOHNSON  
& JOHNSON  
May 7, 2025

- Plaintiffs' Verdict –  
\$3,000,000
- Louisiana (New Orleans)
- Judge – Hon. Kern A.  
Reese
- Jeannine Henderson (Liv)  
– 72 y/o
- Plaintiffs' Counsel –  
DOBS
- Defense Counsel – King  
& Spaulding LLP



# JEANNINE HENDERSON vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON

## May 7, 2025

3. Do you find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that any of the following entities' products were unreasonably dangerous *per se*, and that the unreasonably dangerous condition was a substantial factor in the development of Jeannine Henderson's mesothelioma?

	YES	NO
Johnson & Johnson	✓	
Pecos River Talc LLC	✓	
Avon Products, Inc.	✓	
Colgate-Palmolive Company		✓
Johns-Manville	✓	
WR Grace		✓

(Please proceed to the next question.)

4. Do you find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that any of the following entities' products were unreasonably dangerous in construction or composition, and that the unreasonably dangerous condition was a substantial factor in the development of Jeannine Henderson's mesothelioma?

	YES	NO
Johnson & Johnson	✓	
Pecos River Talc LLC	✓	
Avon Products, Inc.	✓	
Colgate-Palmolive Company		✓
Johns-Manville	✓	
WR Grace		✓

(Please proceed to the next question.)

### JURY INTERROGATORIES

1. Do you find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that Jeannine Henderson had significant exposure to asbestos from products manufactured and/or sold by Johnson & Johnson and/or Pecos River Talc LLC, which was a substantial factor of Jeannine Henderson's mesothelioma?

YES                      NO

✓                                      ~~1111~~

*If you answered "No", then stop here, answer no further questions, have the jury foreperson sign and date this form, and return to the courtroom. Otherwise, proceed to Interrogatory No. 2.*

2. Do you find, by a preponderance of the evidence, that any of the following entities were negligent and that their negligence was a substantial factor in the development of Jeannine Henderson's mesothelioma?

	YES	NO
Johnson & Johnson	✓	
Pecos River Talc LLC	✓	
Avon Products, Inc.	✓	
Bell South Telecommunications, Inc.		✓
Colgate-Palmolive Company		✓
Johns-Manville	✓	
Jefferson Transit/Transdev Services, Inc.		✓
WR Grace		✓

(Please proceed to the next question.)

JEANNINE HENDERSON vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON  
May 7, 2025

5. Do you find, by a preponderance of the evidence that any of the following entities' products were unreasonably dangerous due to a defective design, and that the defect was a substantial factor in the development of Jeannine Henderson's mesothelioma?

	YES	NO	
Johnson & Johnson		✓	<del>    </del>
Pecos River Talc LLC		✓	<del>    </del>
Avon Products, Inc.		✓	<del>    </del>
Colgate-Palmolive Company		✓	<del>    </del>
Johns-Manville		✓	<del>    </del>
WR Grace		✓	<del>    </del>

(Please proceed to the next question.)



# JEANNINE HENDERSON vs. JOHNSON & JOHNSON

May 7, 2025

9. Please express in dollars, the total monetary compensation that will fairly compensate Plaintiffs for the damages, if any, Jeannine Henderson sustained before her death.

Physical Pain and Suffering	\$ <u>85,000</u>	<del>    </del>	Y N 
Mental Anguish	\$ <u>85,000</u>	<del>    </del>	
Loss of Enjoyment of Life	\$ <u>85,000</u>	<del>    </del>	
Medical Expenses	\$ <u>2,570,206.09</u>		
TOTAL	\$ <u>2,825,206.09</u>		

10. Please express in dollars, the total monetary compensation that will fairly compensate Plaintiffs for the damages, if any, they have sustained in the past or will sustain in the future as a result of Jeannine Henderson's death, including loss of the love, affection and companionship of the Decedent, and the grief and anguish of the beneficiary in question.

Joshua Henderson	\$ <u>90,000</u>	<del>    </del>	N 
Justin Henderson	\$ <u>90,000</u>	<del>    </del>	

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THIS JURY VERDICT FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE COURT.

Jason Waller  
FOREPERSON

05/07/2025  
DATE

Paul & Kathy  
Lovell vs.  
Johnson &  
Johnson  
July 29, 2025

- Plaintiffs' Counsel -  
Danny Kraft and Aaron  
Chapman of DOBS, Leslie  
Taylor from Thornton  
Law Firm, Amy Carter  
from the Carter Law  
Group
- Plaintiffs' Verdict  
\$42,608,300



# Paul & Kathy Lovell vs. Johnson & Johnson

## July 29, 2025

### VERDICT SLIP

#### Breach of Warranty

1. Did Johnson & Johnson breach the implied warranty of merchantability due to a defect in the design of its Johnson & Johnson brand baby powder?

Yes

No

*If you answered "Yes" to Question 1, go to Question 2. If you answered "No" to Question 1, go to Question 3.*

2. Was the design defect a substantial contributing factor in causing Mr. Lovell's mesothelioma?

Yes

No

*Go to Question 3.*

3. Did Johnson & Johnson breach the implied warranty of merchantability by selling its baby powder without an adequate warning?

Yes

No

*If you answered "Yes" to Question 3, go to Question 4.*

*If you answered "No" to Question 3, and "Yes" to Question 2, go to Question 5.*

*If you answered "No" to Question 3, and "No" to Question 1 OR Question 2, STOP, sign the Verdict Slip, and inform the Court Officer you have reached a Verdict.*

4. Was the inadequate warning a substantial contributing factor in causing Mr. Lovell's mesothelioma?

Yes

No

*If you answered "Yes" to Question 2 AND/OR Question 4, proceed to Question 5. If you did not answer "Yes" to either of these Questions, STOP, sign the Verdict Slip, and inform the Court Officer you have reached a Verdict.*

# Paul & Kathy Lovell vs. Johnson & Johnson

## July 29, 2025

### Negligence

5. Was Johnson & Johnson negligent in its design of its baby powder?

Yes

No

*If you answered "Yes" to Question 5, go to Question 6. If you answered "No" to Question 5, go to Question 7.*

6. Was the negligent design a substantial contributing factor in causing Mr. Lovell's mesothelioma?

Yes

No

*Go to Question 7.*

7. Was Johnson & Johnson negligent by providing inadequate warnings regarding its baby powder?

Yes

No

*If you answered "Yes" to Question 7, go to Question 8. If you answered "No" to Question 7, go to Question 9.*

8. Was the inadequate warning a substantial contributing factor in causing Mr. Lovell's mesothelioma?

Yes

No

*If you answered "Yes" to any one or more of the following: Question 2, 4, 6 or 8, then go to Question 9.*

*If you did not answer "Yes" to at least one of those Questions, STOP, sign the verdict slip, and inform the Court Officer you have reached a Verdict.*

# Paul & Kathy Lovell vs. Johnson & Johnson

## July 29, 2025

### b. Medical Expenses

Past Medical Expenses: \$ Six hundred eight thousand, three hundred  
(Amount in words)

\$ 608,300  
(Amount in numbers)

Future Medical Expenses: \$ Two million  
(Amount in words)

\$ 2,000,000  
(Amount in numbers)

### Damages

9. What amount of money do you award as damages to Mr. Lovell?

#### a. Conscious pain and suffering

Past Pain and Suffering: \$ Fifteen million  
(Amount in words)

\$ 15,000,000  
(Amount in numbers)

Future Pain and Suffering: \$ Nine million  
(Amount in words)

\$ 9,000,000  
(Amount in numbers)

Paul & Kathy Lovell vs. Johnson & Johnson  
July 29, 2025

10. What amount of money do you award to Mrs. Lovell for any loss of consortium resulting from Mr. Lovell's mesothelioma?

Past Loss of Consortium: \$ Five million  
(Amount in words)

\$ 5,000,000  
(Amount in numbers)

Future Loss of Consortium: \$ Eleven million  
(Amount in words)

\$ 11,000,000  
(Amount in numbers)

# Anna Bishop v. RTV

August 29, 2025

- Plaintiffs' Verdict \$4.5M damages for 3 months P&S, \$7.75M in punis
- Plaintiffs' Counsel - Sam Iola of Iola Gross Forbes-King & Bollinger LLP and Belluck Law
- Defense Counsel – Erik DiMarco of Gordon Rees and Tom Radcliffe of Dehay Firm
- Environmental claim because she lived close to the RTV mine. Def argument was there was no asbestos in the talc, but they didn't have a response to the 12 mesos in the small mining community



# Anna Bishop v. RTV

August 29, 2025

1. Was ANNA BISHOP exposed to asbestos from the mining operations of defendant VANDERBILT MINERALS, LLC?

YES X  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

Five of six jurors must agree on this answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ UNANIMOUS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Did defendant VANDERBILT MINERALS, LLC fail to exercise reasonable care by not taking action to prevent the discharge of asbestos from its mining operations into the surrounding communities?

YES 5  
NO 1

Five of six jurors must agree on this answer.

Ann Johnson \_\_\_\_\_  
Kristina Sweet \_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Haynes \_\_\_\_\_  
W. J. Williams \_\_\_\_\_  
M. Keller \_\_\_\_\_

# Anna Bishop v. RTV

August 29, 2025

3. Was defendant VANDERBILT MINERAL, LLC's failure to exercise reasonable care a substantial factor in causing ANNA BISHOP's mesothelioma?

YES X

NO \_\_\_\_\_

Five of six jurors must agree on this answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
UNANIMOUS  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the sum of money that will justly and fairly compensate Plaintiff for ANNA BISHOP's pain and suffering, if any, from the onset of her mesothelioma symptoms until the date of her death?

\$ 4.5 million (unanimous)

Five of six jurors must agree on this answer.

Kathy Oms  
Kristina Sweet  
Ann Johnson

meeller  
Heather Haynes  
wilkinson

# Anna Bishop v. RTV

August 29, 2025

5. Is Plaintiff entitled to punitive damages against VANDERBILT MINERALS, LLC?

YES X

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Five of six jurors must agree on this answer.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ unanimous \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Anna Bishop v. RTV

August 29, 2025

1. State the amount of punitive damages you award against VANDERBILT MINERALS, LLC?

\$ 7.75 million

Five of six jurors must agree on this answer.

Kathy O'Neil

UNANIMOUS

Industrial talc was an ingredient in:

Greenware

Joint  
Compound

Floor Tiles

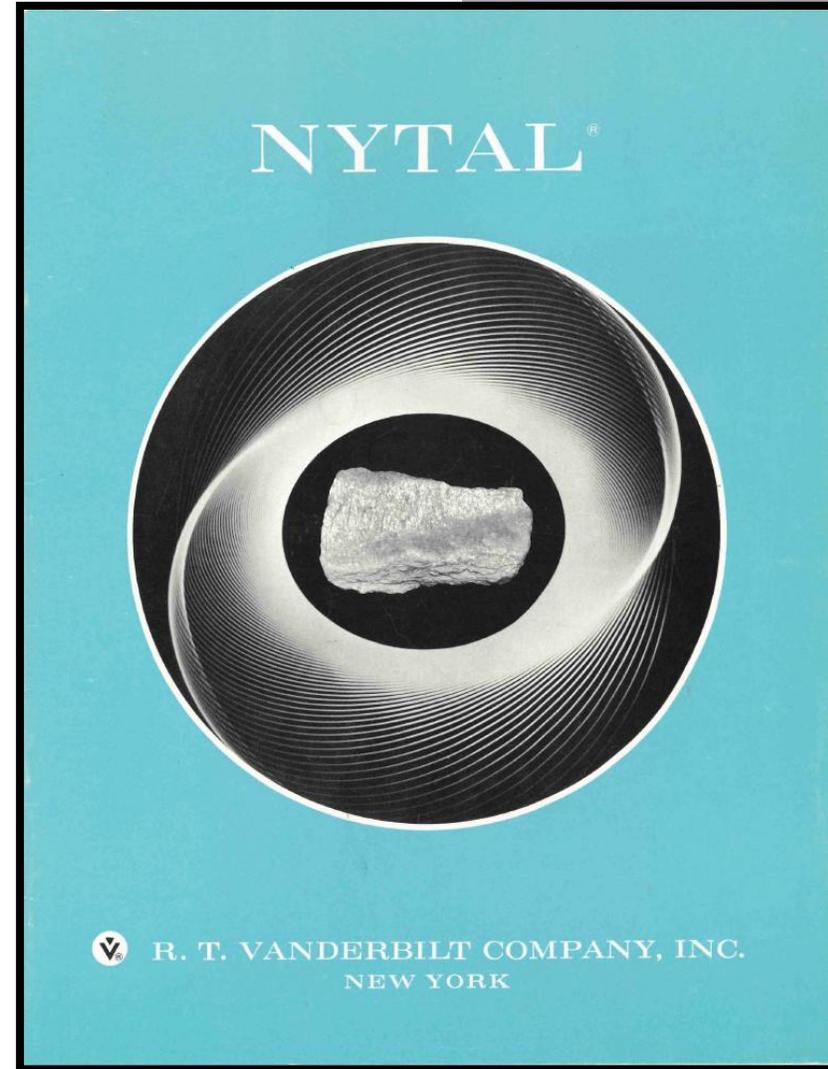
Water Putty

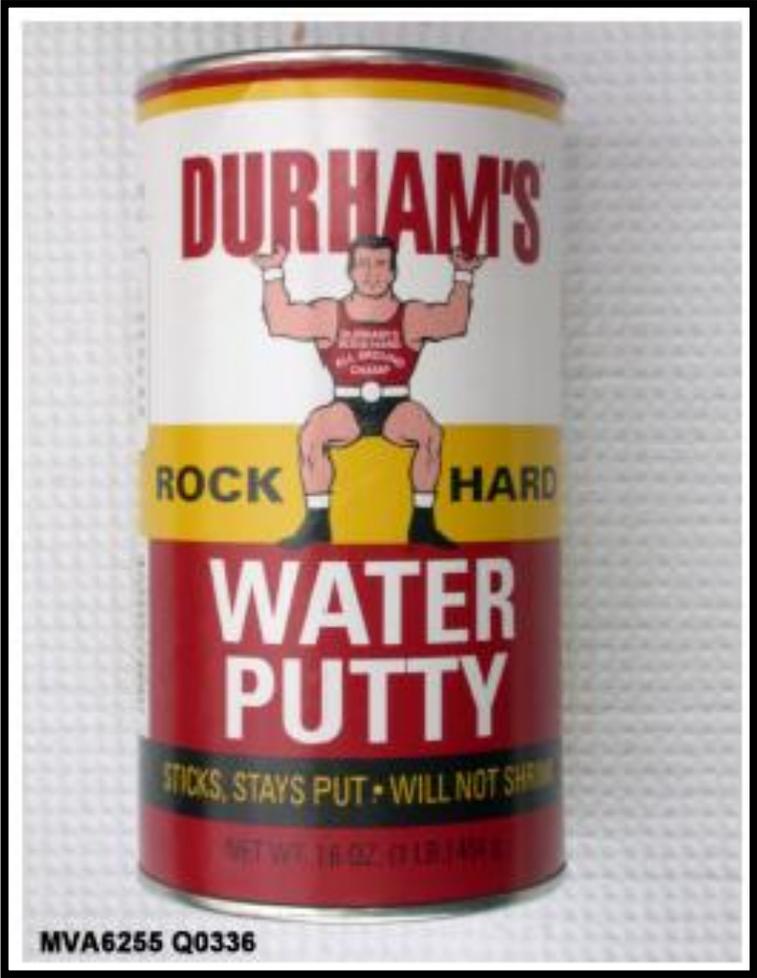


**NYTAL<sup>®</sup> 100 HR**  
**50 LBS. NET (22.7 KILOS)**

# RTV 50th Anniversary (1966)

- Ceramic
- Paint
- Rubber
- Paper
- Specialties





SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

IN RE: NEW YORK COUNTY  
ASBESTOS LITIGATION

NYCAL  
I.A.S. Part 13  
Mendez, J

This Document relates to:

ANTHONY CRINCOLI and JOAN CRINCOLI, his  
wife,

Plaintiff,

-against-

84 LUMBER COMPANY, et al.,

Index No. 190177/2019

ingredient, and, as such, it is neither relevant nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Subject to and without waiving these objections and limiting this response to the state of New York, Kaiser Gypsum states:

Kaiser Gypsum was organized in 1952 and terminated all manufacturing operations in 1978. Kaiser Gypsum understands that plaintiffs allege that Mr. Crincoli was exposed to dry or powdered joint compound products between 1967 and 1979 during his "side job" home remodel work in New York and New Jersey. Kaiser Gypsum manufactured only wallboard, which did not contain asbestos, at its Delanco, New Jersey plant from 1965 until 1968. In 1968, a Kaiser Gypsum "accessories plant" was opened at the Delanco facility. A limited number of the accessory products manufactured there contained small amounts of chrysotile asbestos and/or talc as ingredients. Kaiser Gypsum ceased operations at the Delanco plant in 1975. Any accessory products manufactured by Kaiser Gypsum and sold in in the states of New York and New Jersey during this time period would have been manufactured at the Delanco plant, and therefore such sales would have occurred from 1968 to 1975. The percentage of talc used in those products changed over

**Based upon further information and belief, the following companies may have supplied talc for use at the Kaiser Gypsum plant located at Delanco, New Jersey during the relevant time period:**

**International Talc. Co. (Philadelphia, Chas. A. Wagner Co.).  
R.T. Vanderbilt Co., New York.**

available and these responses are based upon facts known or believed to be true by Kaiser Gypsum at this time.

Kaiser Gypsum has not yet completed investigating the facts relating to this case, has not completed discovery in this action, and has not completed preparation for trial. All responses contained herein are made in good faith and based only upon such information and documents

7345426.1

**Based upon further information and belief, the following companies may have supplied talc for use at the Kaiser Gypsum plant located at Delanco, New Jersey during the relevant time period:**

**International Talc. Co. (Philadelphia, Chas. A. Wagner Co.).  
R.T. Vanderbilt Co., New York.**

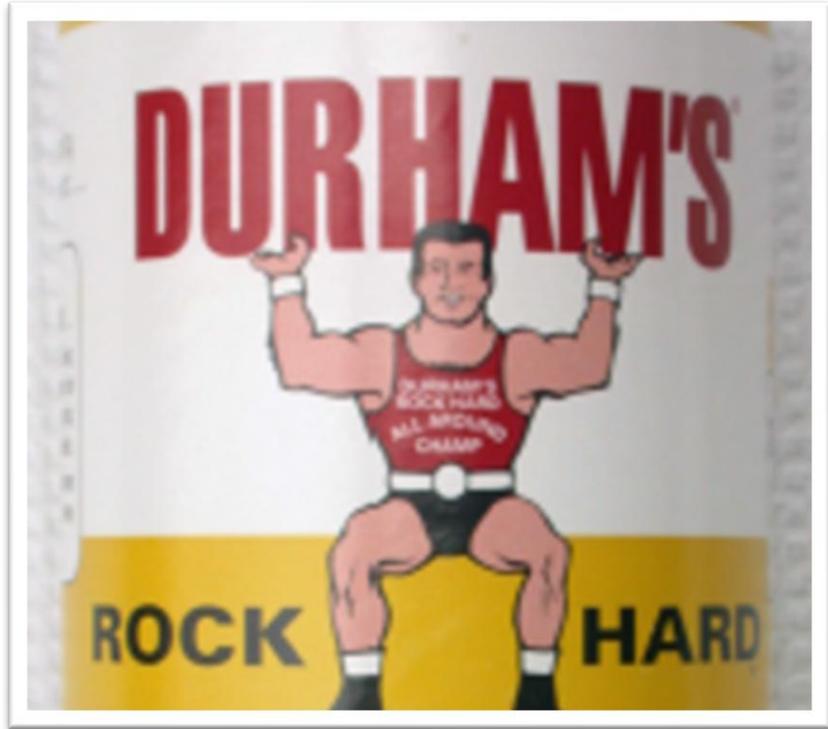
Current addresses for these entities are not known to Kaiser Gypsum. Most of the specific time periods during which these entities supplied talc are unknown. Information relating to the talc mine or mines from which the above-referenced talc was obtained is currently

9

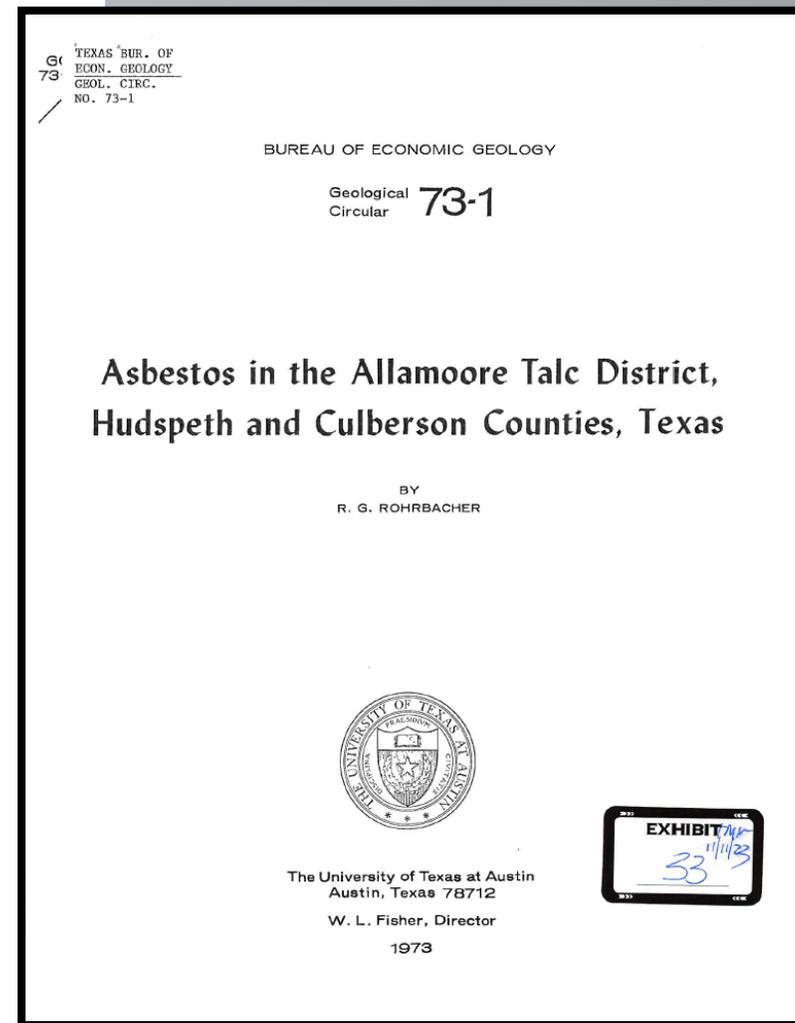
7345426.1

# Responsibility

- Kaiser Gypsum Company, Inc.
  - Formed in 1952
  - Manufactured, among other things, joint compound
  - 90 to 92% of that joint compound consisted of limestone, mica, casein, polyvinyl, clay, and talc
  - 8 to 10% of the Kaiser Gypsum joint compound was chrysotile asbestos



- Pre-1974 -- International Talc (Loomite)
- 1974-2008 -- RT Vanderbilt (NYTAL)
- Post-2008 -- Texas (Allamoore District) Talc



# Updated IARC Monograph

2010

- Perineal use: Group 2B – **Possibly** Carcinogenic to Humans
- Inhalation: Group 3 – Not classifiable

2024

- Group 2A **Probably** Carcinogenic to Humans

# Talc Filing Trends in the US

Talc Percentage of Total Asbestos Filings			
File Year	Total Asbestos Filings	Talc Filings	Talc % of Total
2019	4,142	491	11.9%
2020	3,780	429	11.3%
2021	3,832	346	9.0%
2022	3,705	457	12.3%
2023	3,931	647	16.5%
2024	3,986	765	19.2%
2025 Projected	4,308	948	22.0%

Talc Percentage of Total Asbestos Filings			
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2023	3,931	647	16.5%
2024	3,986	765	19.2%
2025 Projected	4,308	948	22.0%

Filings by Disease Received through 7/31 Each Year			
Disease	2024	2025	2025 v. 2024
Mesothelioma	1,054	1,106	4.9%
Lung Cancer	859	810	-5.7%
Other Cancer	41	56	36.6%
Non-Malignant	115	142	23.5%
Unknown	39	69	76.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

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<b>Total</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

# Dr. Moline 2020 Paper – 33 “medico legal” subjects



- **September 2022:** *Bell v. Am. Int’l Indus.* (M.D.N.C. 2022). Motion practice resulted in disclosure that Betty Bell was a subject
  - Bell had previously claimed occupational exposure to asbestos at Hoechst Celanese Corporation and Pillowtex Corporation
- **May 2023:** Dr. Moline issued an erratum acknowledging that one subject had additional exposure through crocidolite cigarette filters
  - Dr. Moline’s own expert report in the *Kohr* case attributed causation to Kent cigarettes

# Dr. Moline 2020 Paper – 33 “medico legal” subjects



- Additional individuals with alternative exposure:
  - **Danielle Polakow**: claimed bystander exposure to asbestos-containing roofing cement
  - **Doris Jackson**: Claimed exposure to degrading pipe insulation as a public school teacher
  - **Valerie Jo Dalis**: Submitted claim to bankruptcy trust
  - **Stephen Lanzo**: home contained exposed asbestos insulation, and Dr. Moline agreed at trial his schools likely had ACM
  - **Ann Zoas**: substantial family history of cancers, and extensive prior ionizing radiation for throat cancer

# Dr. Moline 2023 Paper – 166 “medico legal” subjects 122 with sole exposure via cosmetic talc

- Some qualifications acknowledging that some individuals had other exposures, **BUT:**



- Beverley Alleyne:** appears to be the 1<sup>st</sup> entry in the table indicating NO other exposures
  - Alleyne submitted sworn documents in the UK claiming workplace exposure and exposure in school buildings
- Leann Hurley:** appears to be final entry in the table, again NO alternative exposures
  - Had prior radiation therapy for endometrial carcinoma (Defense verdict 2022)
- Additional subjects still being identified ...**

# Talc, Pleurodesis, & Cancer (Ghio, 2025)

- IARC Preamble changed in 2019
- “Exceptionally, a single study in one species and sex may be considered to provide sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity”
- Talc classification changed based on 1993 rat study
- Experts did not agree with reclassification
- Presents a “conundrum” for pulmonary medicine

# Talc & Cancer: Systematic Reviews

## Epidemiology

(Boon et al., 2024)

- Evaluated 72 studies
- Evaluated cancers of respiratory system, female reproductive tract, gastrointestinal tract, urinary system, the lymphohematopoietic system, prostate, male genital organs, central nervous system, skin, eye, bone, connective tissue, peritoneal, and breast cancers.

“This systematic review indicates that epidemiology studies do not support a causal association between occupational, medicinal, or personal talc exposure and any cancer in humans.”

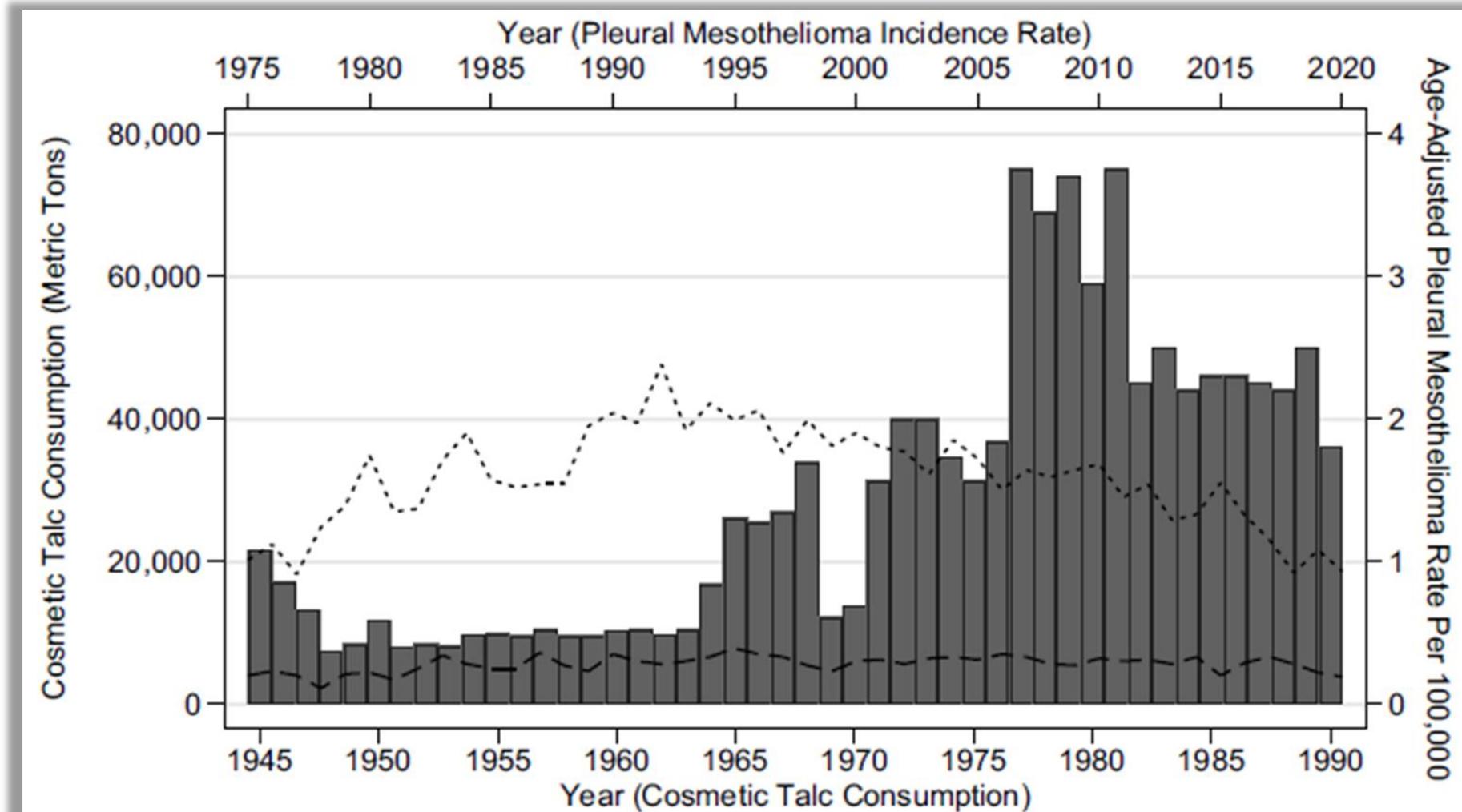
## Animal + Mechanistic Studies

(Pruett et al., 2024)

- Evaluated 7 animal and 11 mechanistic studies
- Studies cover multiple exposure routes, species, exposure durations.

“This systematic review of the experimental animal carcinogenicity and mechanistic evidence for talc indicates that an association between talc exposure and cancer is not expected in humans.”

# Talc Consumption & Mesothelioma (Roberts, et al., 2024)



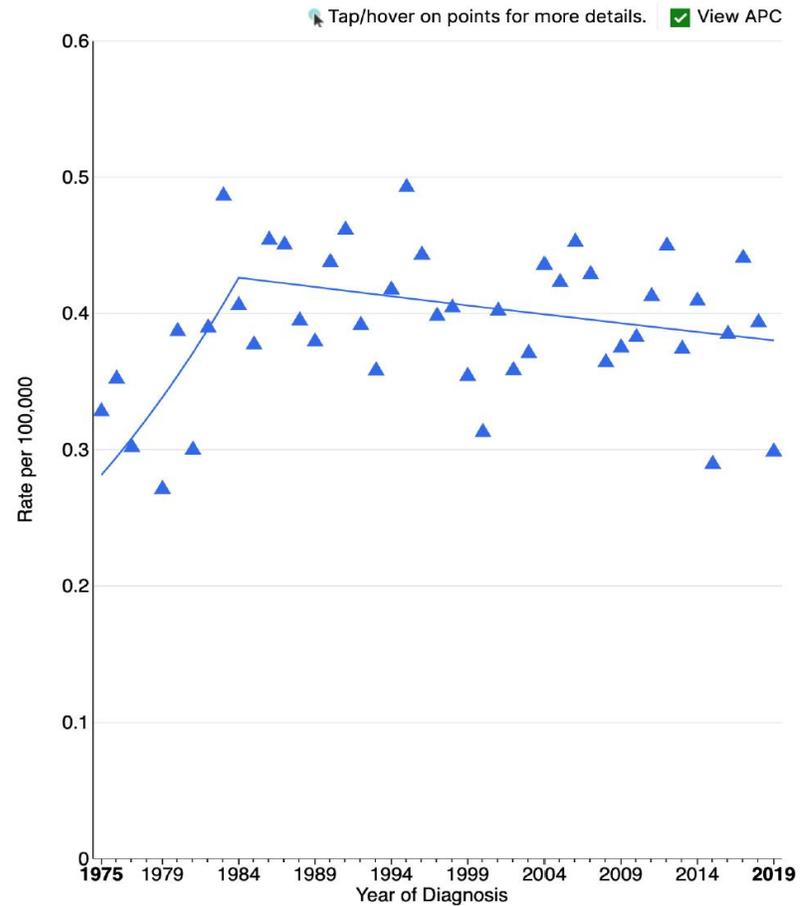
# Mesothelioma Long-Term Trends in SEER Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, 1975-2019

Observed SEER Incidence Rate By Sex, All Races, All Ages



Graph

Data Table



### Annual Percent Change (APC)

Choose an option:

▲ Female

Year Range	APC %	Direction
1975-1984	4.7	↑
1984-2019	-0.3	Not Significant

Legend  
(Sex)

▲ Female<sup>1</sup>



Figure 5. SEER 8 female Mesothelioma incidence rates, 1975-2019, joinpoint fit

# Trends in Meso Among Women (Stevens, et al. 2024)

From MMWR (CDC) 2022:

## **What is added by this report?**

The annual number of deaths with mesothelioma among women significantly increased, from 489 (age-adjusted death rate = 4.8 per 1 million women) in 1999 to 614 (4.2) in 2020. The largest number of deaths in 2020 was associated with the health care and social assistance industry (89; 15.7%) and homemaker occupation (129; 22.8%).

## **What are the implications for public health practice?**

Efforts to limit exposure to asbestos fibers, including among women, need to be maintained.

# 2025 – Cappello, et al.

*Risk Analysis* WILEY

PERSPECTIVE

**Excess Absolute Risk: Translating Occupational Measures of Relative Risk to Expected Lifetime Risk Among the General Population—An Example Using Occupational Epidemiological Studies of Cosmetic Talc Miners and Millers and Mesothelioma**

M. Anthony Cappello<sup>1</sup> | Alexander S. Riordan<sup>2</sup> | Elizabeth A. Best<sup>1</sup> | Hannah C. Mazzotta<sup>1</sup> | Jennifer Sahmel<sup>1</sup>

**ABSTRACT**  
Measures of relative risk are commonly used in conducting public health assessments. However, the true magnitude of effect is often underestimated. In this perspective report, the authors discuss the importance of using excess absolute risk calculations in public health risk assessments of rare diseases and demonstrate its application using the body of published occupational epidemiological studies on cosmetic talc miners and millers and mesothelioma risk. By calculating the excess absolute risk among the general population, the argument that cosmetic talc exposure is associated with an increased mesothelioma risk is disputed, and further demonstrates epidemiologically that there is no to negligible (if any) increased risk of mesothelioma from cosmetic talc exposures in the general public.

**1 | Introduction and Background**

Epidemiology is the foundational field of public health and medical science that studies the causes and occurrence of diseases and serves as the primary basis for determining population health risks and disease causation and, by extension, identifies individual risks important to exposure and disease relationships.

In its simplest form, “occupational epidemiology” encompasses the assessment of potential hazards found within the workplace, while “public health epidemiology” generally focuses on potential hazards experienced largely by the general population, often outside of or in addition to the workplace setting. Fundamentally, the field of occupational epidemiology recognizes that there are exposures and subsequent diseases that primarily originate

© 2025 Society for Risk Analysis.

*Risk Analysis*, 2025, 001–8  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/risa.70089>

1

# Potential influence of cancer history on mesothelioma incidence (Krevanko et al., 2025)

Journal of Public Health | pp. 1–6 | <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/61af110>

## Potential influence of cancer history on mesothelioma incidence: an ecologic analysis in the U.S. population

Callan F. Krevanko<sup>1</sup>, Ashley M. Hernandez<sup>2</sup>,  
Ryan C. Lewis<sup>3,\*</sup> and Jennifer S. Pierce<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Benchmark Risk Group, 720 SE 160th Ave Suite 103, PMB 264 Vancouver, WA 98684, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Benchmark Risk Group, 121 West Wacker Dr, Suite 2800 Chicago, IL 60601, USA  
<sup>3</sup>Benchmark Risk Group, 1111 Broadway, Suite 300 Oakland, CA 94607, USA

\*Corresponding author. Benchmark Risk Group, 1111 Broadway, Suite 300 Oakland, CA 94607, USA

## Potential influence of cancer history on mesothelioma incidence: an ecologic analysis in the U.S. population

Callan F. Krevanko<sup>1</sup>, Ashley M. Hernandez<sup>2</sup>, Alison M. Gauthier<sup>3</sup>, Moin S. Vahora<sup>2</sup>,  
Ryan C. Lewis<sup>3,\*</sup> and Jennifer S. Pierce<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** There is a demand for population level research on the potential influence of cancer history on mesothelioma incidence independent of other risk factors, such as amphibole asbestos consumption, including in the USA, where the incidence rates are high.

**Methods:** We computed age-adjusted IIRs of mesothelioma in females and available U.S. cancer data from 1975 to 2021. To facilitate comparison with IIRs for female breast cancer and melanoma.

**Results:** Similar to breast cancer and melanoma, ~25% of females with mesothelioma had a history of at least one other primary cancer. While IIRs of mesothelioma in males without a history of other primary cancers were temporally aligned with historical asbestos consumption trends in the USA, IIRs of mesothelioma among males with other primary cancer histories showed no relationship with asbestos consumption trends.

**Conclusions:** Our findings suggest that a genetic predisposition for malignancy contributes to U.S. mesothelioma rates and is a distinct risk factor independent of asbestos exposure.

**Keywords:** mesothelioma; multiple primary neoplasms; risk factors; SEER program

### Introduction

In the USA, mesothelioma is a rather uncommon cancer, with an annual age-adjusted incidence rate (IR) of <1 per 100 000 persons at risk.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the initial impacts of the coronavirus disease from the SARS-CoV-2 virus in 2020, mesothelioma accounted for ~0.10% of all mortality in the USA per year.<sup>2</sup> Mesothelioma bears a unique characteristic: incident cases in the USA occur in a relatively high percentage of individuals with a history of prior cancer of a different type.<sup>3,4</sup> For example, an analysis of data from the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program revealed that among incident mesotheliomas in 2009–2013, 10.9% of those aged 20–64 years and 23.5% of those aged ≥ 65 years had been previously diagnosed with cancer at another site.<sup>3</sup> For context, compared to 29 other incident cancers, the rank-order of these two percentages was one of 29 and two (tied)

of 29, respectively. A more recent SEER analysis revealed that 18% of incident mesotheliomas in 2019 among those aged ≥ 18 years were among persons with a previous cancer at another site, corresponding to a rank-order of two of 29.<sup>4</sup>

Patients with a history of multiple primary cancers are more likely to have a hereditary predisposition to malignancy due to their increased probability of carrying germline mutations in cancer-related genes.<sup>5,6</sup> Accordingly, the International

Callan F. Krevanko, Supervising Health Scientist  
Ashley M. Hernandez, Supervising Health Scientist  
Alison M. Gauthier, Managing Health Scientist  
Moin S. Vahora, Senior Associate Health Scientist  
Ryan C. Lewis, Principal Health Scientist  
Jennifer S. Pierce, Senior Principal Health Scientist

# Meso in a talc mucker (Dodson et al., 2024)

- Case report of a single case
- Male, age 77
- Worked as a mucker at an industrial talc mine for 9 years (48 years prior to death)
- Lung tissue analysis: 706 ferruginous bodies/g (wet weight) including tremolite.
- General population: 20 FB/g (wet)
- Tremolite was found in the bulk talc from the mine and also in the lung.

“It is our conclusion, that the individual in the study developed the rare cancer- mesothelioma as a result of his exposure to elongated mineral particles. Both the bulk sample of the talcum product and the tissue burden analysis confirmed the presence of asbestiform tremolite.”

# Talc, ovarian cancer, and recall bias in the sister study (Goodman, et al., 2025)

Global Epidemiology 9 (2025) 100203

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Global Epidemiology

journal homepage: [www.sciencedirect.com/journal/global-epidemiology](http://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/global-epidemiology)

Commentary

Talc, ovarian cancer, and recall bias in the sister study

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**ABSTRACT**

O'Brien et al. [6] reported on the past prospective cohort study of women aged among certain groups of women, re-evaluated the association between talc use and ovarian cancer using quantitative bias analysis (QBA), reporting evidence that increased the magnitude of risk estimates of recall bias rather than fixed potential impact of recall bias, including effect estimates. Future analyses that respect to more fully addressing issues impact of differential recall on estimates

O'Brien et al. [7] re-evaluated the association between talc and ovarian cancer in the Sister Study, a US-based prospective cohort study of women aged 35–74 who had a sister with a history of breast cancer. The patterns and reliability of self-reported talc use in this cohort were previously evaluated; O'Brien et al. [6] reported that among women who were diagnosed with ovarian cancer during follow-up, 20 % reported using talc in the 12 months prior to enrollment on the baseline questionnaire (2003–2009), while on a follow-up questionnaire (2017–2019), 33 % reported using talc in the same time period. For all other groups (i.e., women who were diagnosed with breast or uterine cancer, or who were not diagnosed with uterine, ovarian, or breast cancer), self-reported talc use was higher at baseline than at follow-up. We recently conducted a quantitative bias analysis (QBA) using the sensitivity and specificity information reported by O'Brien et al. [6] and data reported in the largest previously published case-control study [2,3]. The purpose of our case study was to illustrate the potential impact of recall bias in a case-control study using real-world recall data. We modeled several distributions of recall bias in exposed and unexposed cases and controls. Almost all of the scenarios we considered demonstrated a bias away from the null.

A major limitation of our analysis is that we did not have access to raw data. Thus, we were very excited to see that O'Brien et al. [7] conducted a QBA, using raw data from the Sister Study. O'Brien et al. [7] primarily focused their analyses on data obtained from the follow-up questionnaire, which they reported had a considerable amount of missing data (e.g., 37 % of talc non-users and 15 % of users at baseline had missing follow-up data on talc use). The authors assessed the impact of missing data using several methods. They determined that multiple imputation was the most methodologically appropriate because the data were not missing at random and because women with cancer were overrepresented among those women with missing data at follow-up.

Following their imputation of missing data, the authors modeled three scenarios to better understand the impact of talc recall bias on estimates of ovarian cancer risk. The three scenarios assumed: (1) ovarian cancer cases that reported ever use were actually never users; (2) ovarian cancer cases that reported being infrequent/short-term users were actually never users; and (3) non-cases that reported never use were actually infrequent/short-term users. In each of the modeled scenarios, fixed proportions of relevant participants, ranging from 0 to 90 %, were reassigned from their reported or imputed talc use category (e.g., never user, infrequent/short term user) to another talc use category. The authors then selected two point estimates for recall bias, one for cases from scenario 2 (25 % non-frequent, short-term users reassigned to never users) and one for controls from scenario 3 (10 % of never users reassigned to infrequent/short-term users) to carry forward into subsequent analyses. Using these scenarios to correct for recall, they

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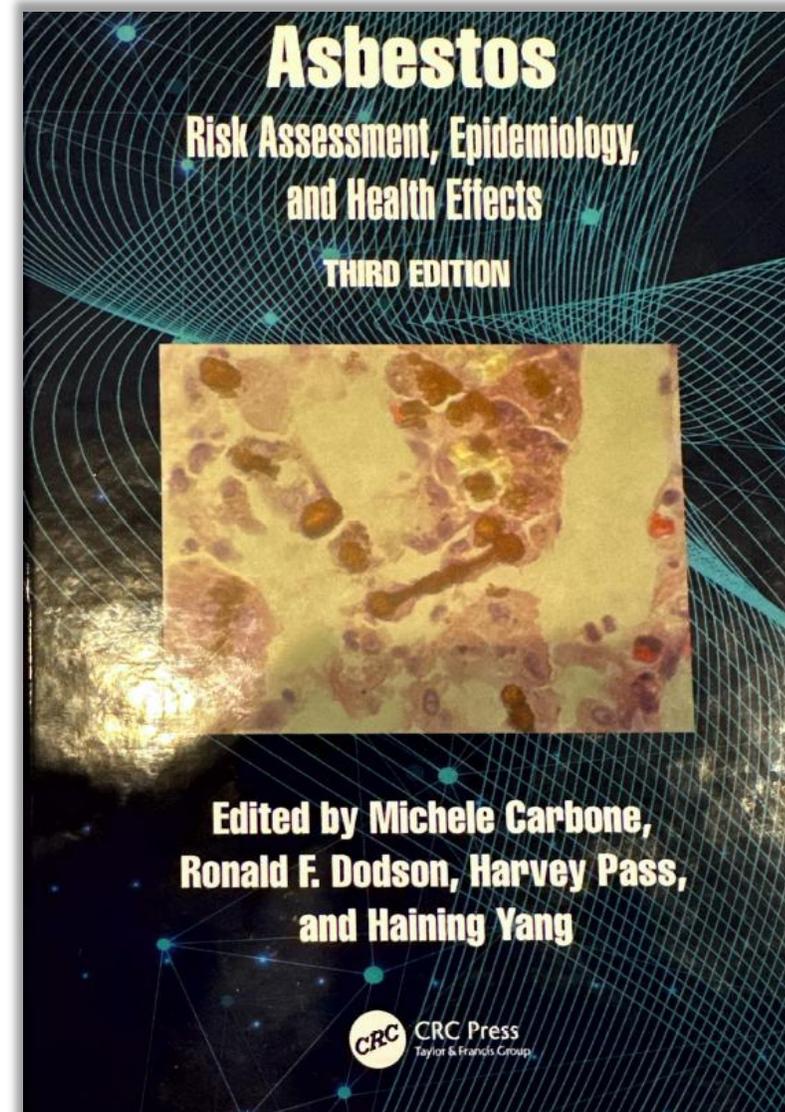
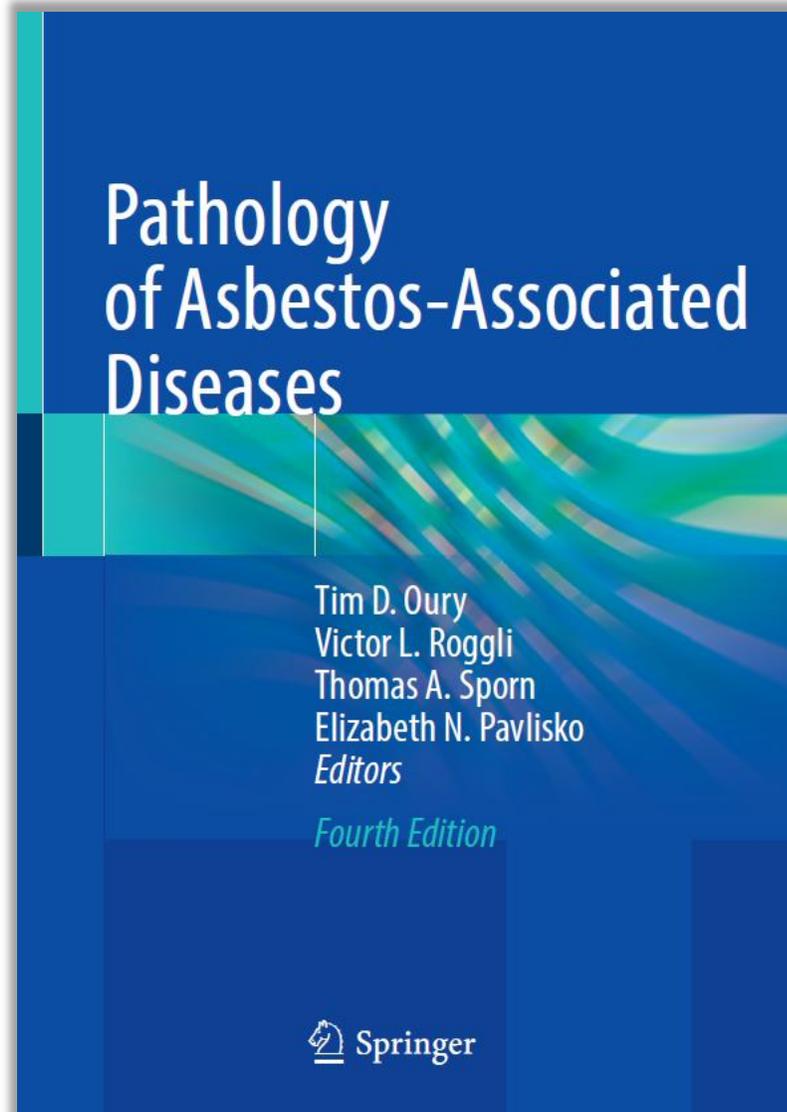
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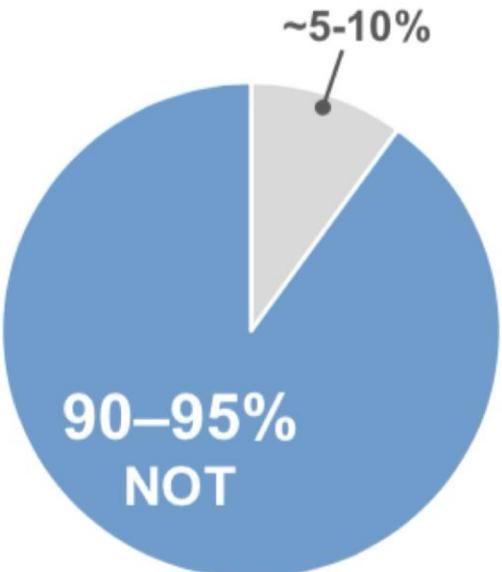
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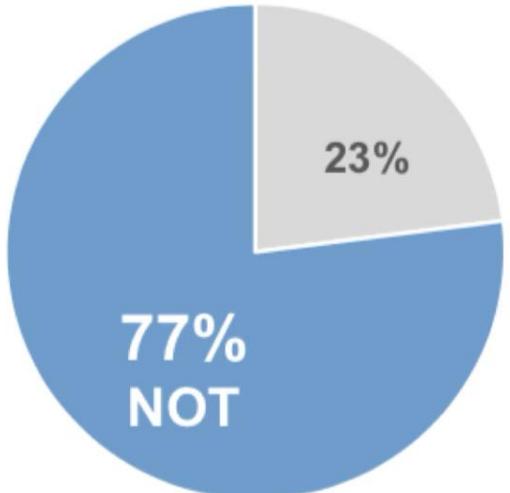
HER BODY SIMPLY FAILED.

**WOMEN'S BODIES SIMPLY FAIL**

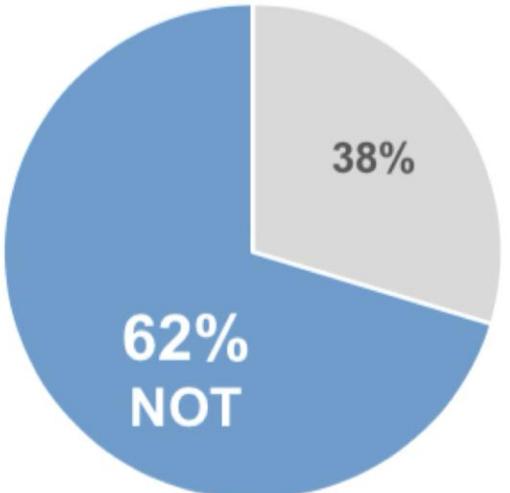
# Scientific Literature Confirms Majority of Cases of Mesothelioma in Women Are Not Caused by Asbestos Exposure



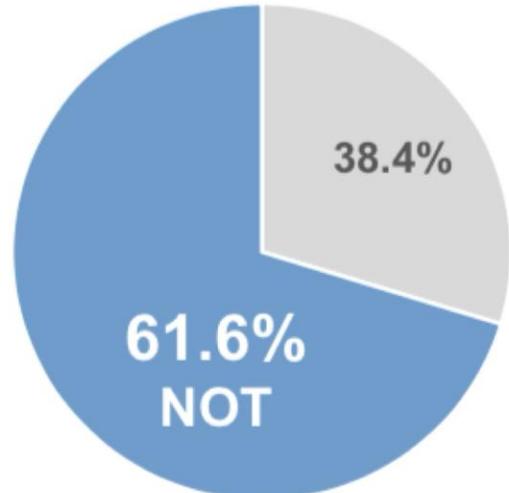
**Price and Ware**  
(2009, US)



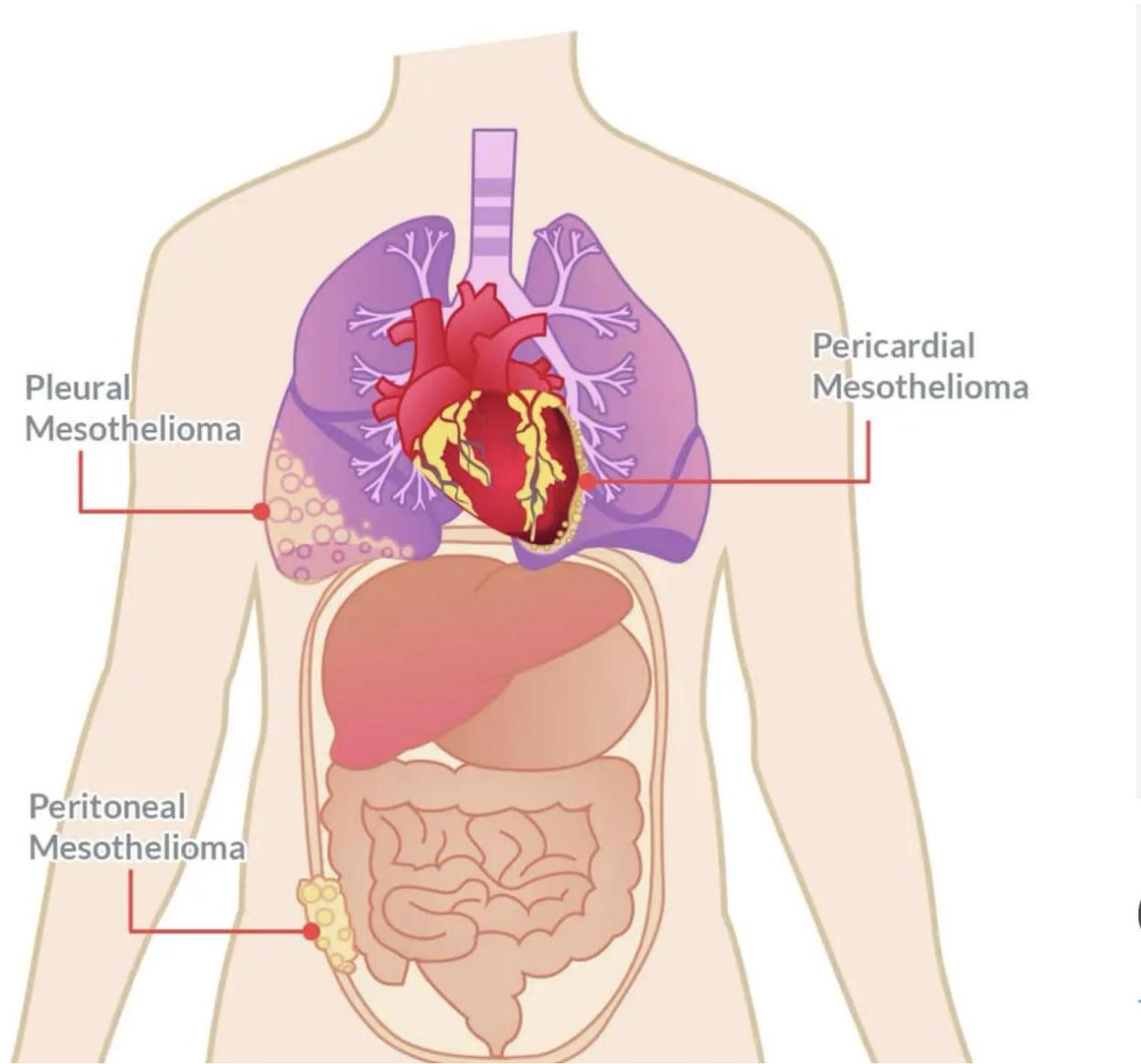
**Spirtas et al**  
(1994, US)



**Rake et al**  
(2009, UK)



**Goldberg et al**  
(2006, France)



*Table 2 Frequency and percentages of cases and controls with reported exposure to asbestos*

	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Controls</i>
	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>
	208 (100.0)	533 (100.0)
Ever exposed to asbestos	129 (62.0)	90 (16.9)
Ever performed:		
Brake lining work or repair	33 (15.8)	72 (13.5)
Furnace or boiler installation or repair	51 (24.5)	39 (7.3)
Building demolition	11 (5.3)	29 (5.4)
Plumbing or heating	72 (34.6)	125 (23.5)
Insulation	83 (39.9)	83 (15.6)
Shipbuilding or yard or repair	67 (32.2)	40 (7.5)
Elevator installation or repair	5 (2.4)	5 (0.9)
Production of textiles	4 (1.9)	20 (3.8)
Production of paper products	7 (3.4)	21 (3.9)
At least one of these nine	150 (72.1)	238 (44.7)
Highest likelihood of exposure by job history and NOHS* (%):		
0	110 (52.9)	372 (69.8)
1- 9	42 (20.2)	99 (18.6)
10-19	2 (1.0)	10 (1.9)
20-49	41 (19.7)	40 (7.5)
≥50	13 (6.3)	12 (2.3)
Cohabitant ever exposed	16 (7.7)	24 (4.5)
Cohabitant any of nine activities	37 (17.8)	93 (17.4)
Lived within two miles of asbestos mine or mill	0 (0.0)	8 (1.5)

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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## Mesothelioma Associated With the Use of Cosmetic Talc

*Jacqueline Moline, MD, MSc, Kristin Bevilacqua, MPH, Maya Alexandri, JD, and Ronald E. Gordon, PhD*

No known safe level of exposure to asbestos.

Low concentrations of asbestos are dangerous.

The demands defense experts require to label a structure asbestos are wrong.

1 fiber of asbestos in sample is statistically significant.

Industry testing does not “ensure freedom from asbestos.”

Opinions are based on dozens of cited scientific sources.

# Expert Panel with the FDA on Talc

Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m. - noon



Dr. Sara Brenner, M.D., M.P.H.  
Principal Deputy Commissioner



Dr. Martin Makary, M.D., M.P.H.  
FDA Commissioner



Talc should not be used  
in makeup or body powders.

Industry testing is not adequate.

Talc with asbestos is deadly.

Ovarian and lung complications are understood. GI issues are very concerning.

Feasibly alternative without health risk exist and have for a while.

**STOP** using talc.

**THANK YOU!**

