

### DEFINITION

1. **Asbestos pleural plaques** are raised patches of hyaline fibrosis which develop on the parietal pleura after exposure to asbestos.

### CLINICAL FEATURES

2. Pleural plaques cause no symptoms and are free of complications. They are usually a coincidental finding on chest X-ray.
3. The patches are yellow and shiny in appearance, well circumscribed and often bilateral. They are irregularly shaped and may be nodular or smooth. Extensive foci of calcification are commonly seen.
4. Histologically the plaques have the appearance of basket-weave collagen. Asbestos fibres are almost never seen within them.

### AETIOLOGY

5. The sole cause of asbestos pleural plaques is inhalation of asbestos dust which may have taken place many years prior to the appearance of the plaques.

### CONCLUSION

6. **Asbestos pleural plaques** are raised patches of hyaline fibrosis which develop on the parietal pleura after exposure to asbestos.

### REFERENCES

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