

Online supplementary appendix 2

The characteristics of subjects studied

Study	MPM Patients	Non-MPM Subjects
Robinson et al ²¹	Epithelioid type (n = 25) Sarcomatoid type (n = 4) Other or not specified (n = 15)	Healthy controls without asbestos exposure (n = 28) Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 40) Patients with inflammatory non-pleural lung disease (n = 92) Patients with non-MPM pleural diseases (n = 38) Patients with non-pleural malignant lung disease (n = 30)
Onda et al ²²	Epithelioid type (n = 56)	Healthy controls (n = 70)
Scherpereel et al ²³	Epithelioid type (n = 55) Sarcomatoid type (n = 6) Other or not specified (n = 13)	Patients with benign asbestos-related pleural diseases (n = 28) Patients with pleural metastasis of carcinomas (n = 35)
Beyer et al ²⁴	Epithelioid type (n = 59) Sarcomatoid type (n = 8) Other or not specified (n = 21)	Healthy controls (n = 409) Patients with non-MPM malignancy (n = 412) Patients with nonmalignant conditions (n = 116)

		Subjects with asbestos exposure (n = 61)
Creaney et al ²⁵	Epithelioid type (n = 35) Sarcomatoid type (n = 15) Other or not specified (n = 67)	Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 33) Patients with benign asbestos-related diseases (n = 53) Patients with benign pleural effusions (n = 30)
Cristaudo et al ²⁶	Epithelioid type (n = 72) Sarcomatoid type (n = 10) Other or not specified (n = 25)	Healthy controls (n = 262) Patients with benign respiratory diseases (n = 130) Patients with lung cancer (n = 215)
Di Serio et al ²⁷	Epithelioid type (n = 20) Sarcomatoid type (n = 2) Other or not specified (n = 2)	Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 26) Patients with asbestos-related diseases (n = 66)
Amati et al ²⁸	Epithelioid type (n = 11) Sarcomatoid type (n = 6) Other or not specified (n = 5)	Healthy controls without asbestos exposure (n = 54) Subjects with asbestos exposure (n = 94)
Shiomi et al ²⁹	Epithelioid type (n = 21) Sarcomatoid type (n = 9) Other or not specified (n = 9)	Patients with benign asbestos-related diseases and healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 201) Patients with lung cancer (n = 45) Others (n = 8)
Iwahori et al ³⁰	Epithelioid type (n = 13)	Healthy controls without asbestos exposure (n = 38)

	<p>Sarcomatoid type (n = 3)</p> <p>Other or not specified (n = 11)</p>	<p>Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 9)</p> <p>Patients with lung cancer (n = 47)</p> <p>Patients with other cancers (n = 35)</p>
van den Heuvel ³¹	<p>Epithelioid type (n = 43)</p> <p>Sarcomatoid type (n = 10)</p> <p>Other or not specified (n = 20)</p>	<p>Healthy controls (n = 50)</p> <p>Patients with lung cancer (n = 106)</p>
Creaney et al ³²	<p>Epithelioid type (n = 57)</p> <p>Sarcomatoid type (n = 9)</p>	<p>Healthy controls without asbestos exposure (n = 10)</p> <p>Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 10)</p> <p>Patients with benign asbestos-related diseases (n = 21)</p> <p>Patients with lung cancer (n = 10)</p>
Schneider et al ³³	<p>Epithelioid type (n = 81)</p> <p>Sarcomatoid type (n = 14)</p> <p>Other or not specified (n = 34)</p>	<p>Patients with lung cancer (n = 139)</p> <p>Patients with benign asbestos-related diseases (n = 75)</p>
Davies et al ³⁴	<p>Epithelioid type (n = 11)</p> <p>Sarcomatoid type (n = 5)</p> <p>Other or not specified (n = 8)</p>	<p>Patients with nonmesothelioma malignancy (n = 67)</p> <p>Patients with benign pleural effusion (n = 75)</p>
Rodriguez Portal et al ³⁵	<p>Not specified (n = 36)</p>	<p>Healthy controls (n = 48)</p> <p>Patients with asbestos exposure and no pleural disease (n = 177)</p>

		Patients with benign asbestos-related diseases (n = 101)
Fujimoto et al ³⁶	Epithelioid type (n = 15) Sarcomatoid type (n = 4) Other or not specified (n = 4)	Patients with lung cancer (n = 38) Patients with benign asbestos pleurisy (n = 26) Patients with tuberculosis pleurisy (n = 5) Patients with no pleural diseases (n = 4)
Hollevoet et al ³⁶	Epithelioid type (n = 73) Sarcomatoid type (n = 4) Other or not specified (n = 8)	Healthy controls (n = 101) Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 89) Patients with benign asbestos-related diseases (n = 123) Patients with benign respiratory diseases (n = 46) Patients with lung cancer (n = 63)
Creaney et al ³⁸	Epithelioid type (n = 59) Other or not specified (n = 7)	Patients with benign asbestos-related diseases (n = 47) Patients with benign respiratory diseases (n = 42)
Cristaudo et al ³⁹	Epithelioid type (n = 31)	Healthy controls (n = 93) Patients with benign respiratory diseases (n = 111)
Dipalma et al ⁴⁰	Epithelioid type (n = 29) Sarcomatoid type (n = 4) Other or not specified (n = 3)	Healthy controls without asbestos exposure (n = 109) Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 26) Patients with benign asbestos-related diseases (n = 48) Patients with benign respiratory diseases (n = 110)

		Patients with lung cancer (n = 25)
Yamada et al ⁴¹	Epithelioid type (n = 37) Sarcomatoid type (n = 5) Other or not specified (n = 3)	Patients with non-malignant pleural effusions (n = 24) Patients with lung cancer (n = 29)
Ashour et al ⁴²	Not specified (n = 38)	Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 32) Patients with benign pleural diseases (n = 29) Patients with pleural carcinomas (n = 24)
Blanquart et al ⁴³	Epithelioid type (n = 49) Sarcomatoid type (n = 4) Other or not specified (n = 8)	Patients with adenocarcinoma effusions (n = 25) Patients with benign pleural effusions (n = 15)
Amany et al ⁴⁴	Epithelioid type (n = 14) Sarcomatoid type (n = 4) Other or not specified (n = 2)	Patients with benign asbestos pleural effusions (n = 10) Patients with tuberculosis pleural effusions (n = 10)
Canessa et al ⁴⁵	Epithelioid type (n = 35) Sarcomatoid type (n = 9) Other or not specified (n = 8)	Patients with non-MPM malignant effusions (n = 94) Patients with benign pleural effusions (n = 129)
Creaney et al ⁴⁶	Epithelioid type (n = 32) Sarcomatoid type (n = 9)	Patients with non-MPM malignant effusions (n = 39) Patients with benign disease (n = 37)

	Other or not specified (n = 25)	Patients with chronic kidney disease (n = 53) Healthy controls without asbestos exposure (n = 18)
Ferro et al ⁴⁷	Epithelioid type (n = 26) Sarcomatoid type (n = 9) Other or not specified (n = 8)	Patients with non-MPM malignancy (n = 23) Patients with benign diseases (n = 36)
Filiberti et al ⁴⁸	Epithelioid type (n = 43) Sarcomatoid type (n = 3) Other or not specified (n = 2)	Patients with malignant effusions (n = 64) Patients with benign effusions (n = 56)
Hooper et al ⁴⁹	Epithelioid type (n = 23) Sarcomatoid type (n = 3) Other or not specified (n = 2)	Patients with non-MPM malignant effusions (n = 74) Patients with benign asbestos-related effusions (n = 13) Patients with benign pleural diseases (n = 100)
Bayram et al ⁵⁰	Not specified (n = 24)	Patients with pleural plaques (n = 279) Healthy controls with asbestos exposure (n = 123) Healthy controls without asbestos exposure (n = 120)

MPM = malignant pleural mesothelioma.