

# Screening for Mesothelioma

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#### Disclosures

None

#### What is screening?

Testing for a disease before developing symptoms



## Principles of screening

- 1. Characteristics of the disease
- 2. Suitability of a screening test
- 3. Effectiveness of early treatment

### Principles of screening

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#### Characteristics of the disease

Malignant mesothelioma is a good candidate for screening

- Target population is well defined
- Associated with high morbidity and mortality
- Motivated patient population

Exposure and risk may be challenging to quantify

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- Imaging
- Biomarkers

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#### Imaging

#### Chest X-ray

Asbestos-exposed nuclear weapons workers, United States. (n=2,760)

	Interstitial Lung Disease, %	Pleural Thickening, %
Positive predictive value	66.7	74.0
Negative predictive value	97.6	91.8
Sensitivity	13.2	19.7
Specificity	99.8	99.2
False positive	0.2	0.7
False negative	2.4	8.0

Performance characteristics of chest X-ray compared with CT for detection of ILD and pleural thickening in 2760 nuclear weapons workers



#### Imaging

CT scan

Asbestos-exposed shipyard workers from Monfalcone, Italy. (n=1,045)



Imaging



- Good discrimination between benign and malignant disease
- Risk of missing very early disease
- No studies evaluating its role in screening
- Cost, limited access and lack of resources for interpretation likely preclude widespread use

- Radiographic testing
- Biomarkers

Biomarkers

Soluble mesothelin-related peptides

#### Soluble mesothelin-related peptides



Soluble mesothelin-receptor protein

Megakaryocyte pontentiating factor

**Osteopontin (OPN)** 

Fibulin-3

**High-mobility group B1** 

microRNAs

**Multiplex protein signatures** 

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#### Effectiveness of early treatment



Survival for all patients undergoing any type of surgical procedure by stage

Survival for all patients undergoing any type of surgical procedure by histology



#### Efficacy of treatment

- Stage at presentation impacts survival only for epitheliod subtype
- Survival mostly impacted by histologic type

#### Conclusions

- Patients with asbestos exposure at risk for malignant mesothelioma are an appropriate cohort for targeted screening
- Lack of a good screening test that is sensitivity enough to pick up early cancers and specific enough to prevent unnecessary invasive testing
- Benefit of aggressive early treatment across a broad cohort of patients is unclear

The promise of better diagnostic tests and management strategies could make screening an important part of future care



## Thank you