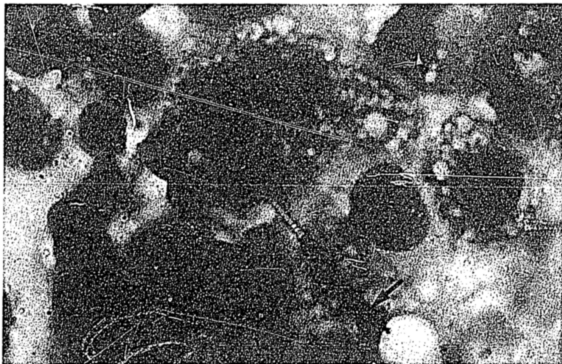


Asbestosis

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A 63-year-old man was admitted to the hospital because of severe dyspnea, chest pain, fatigue, and anorexia. For 28 years, this worker had been exposed to asbestos fibers while building ceilings without adequate protection. A chest roentgenogram showed an opacifica-

tion of the left retrocardiac area and a small left pleural effusion. Bronchoscopy and broncho-alveolar lavage were performed. Asbestos bodies were identified in the broncho-alveolar lavage fluid by phase-contrast microscopy at a 250 \times magnification (Fig 1). Asbestos bodies (also known as ferruginous bodies) are asbestos fibers coated with an iron-rich material derived from proteins such as ferritin and hemosiderin.

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