

Table 3**Asbestos-related lung conditions^{2,3}****Lung conditions****Pleural plaques****Significance**

Indicate asbestos exposure, associated with mesothelioma but do not indicate malignancy

Pleural effusion

Can be benign (secondary to asbestos exposure) or malignant: mesothelioma, lung cancer, or metastatic cancer

Diffuse pleural thickening

Can be secondary to inflammatory and infective causes, asbestos exposure, and non-malignant pleural effusions. May be unilateral or bilateral

Asbestosis

Progressive pulmonary fibrosis, usually affecting the lower lobes

Mesothelioma

Primary malignancy of the pleural mesothelium