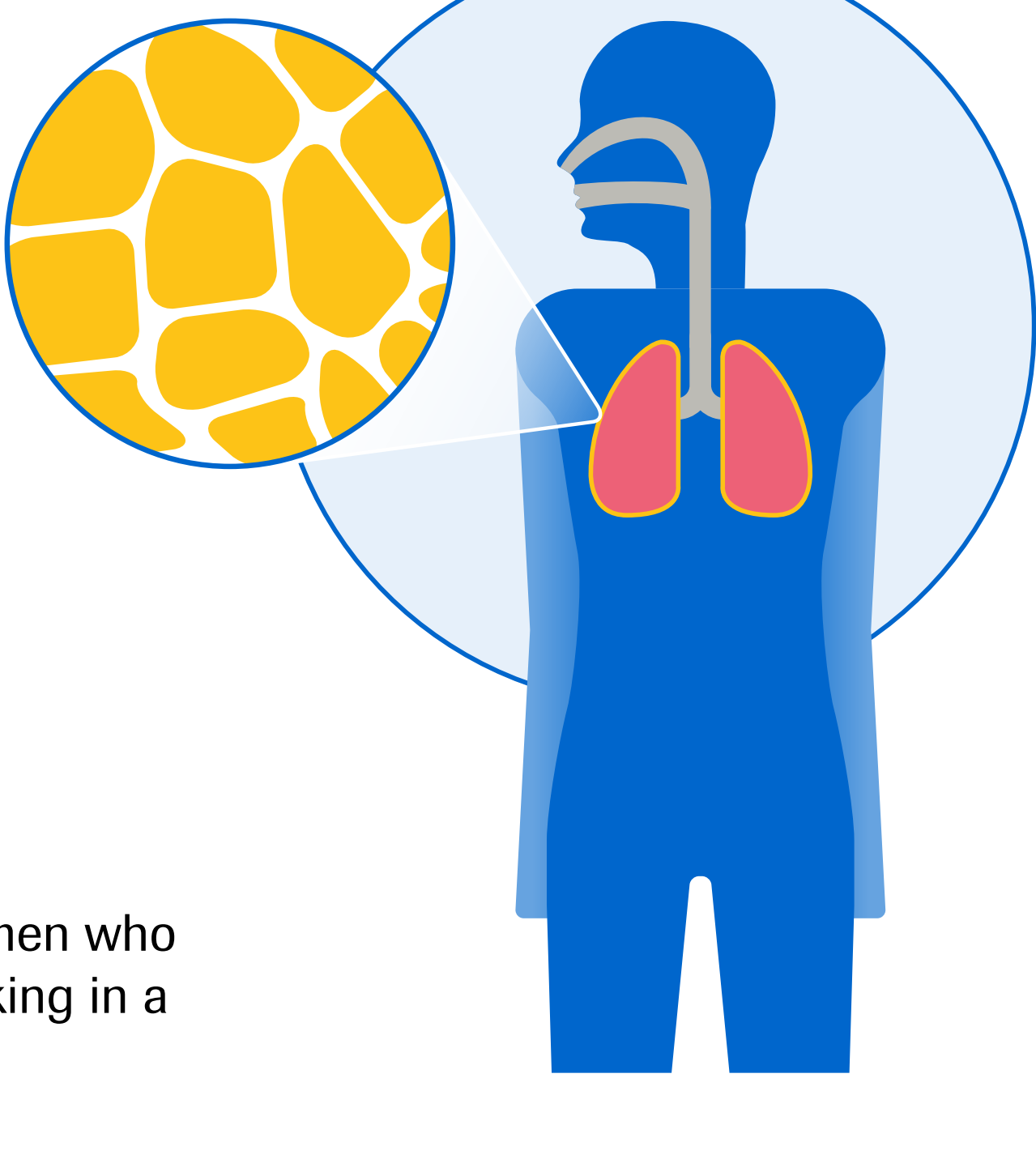


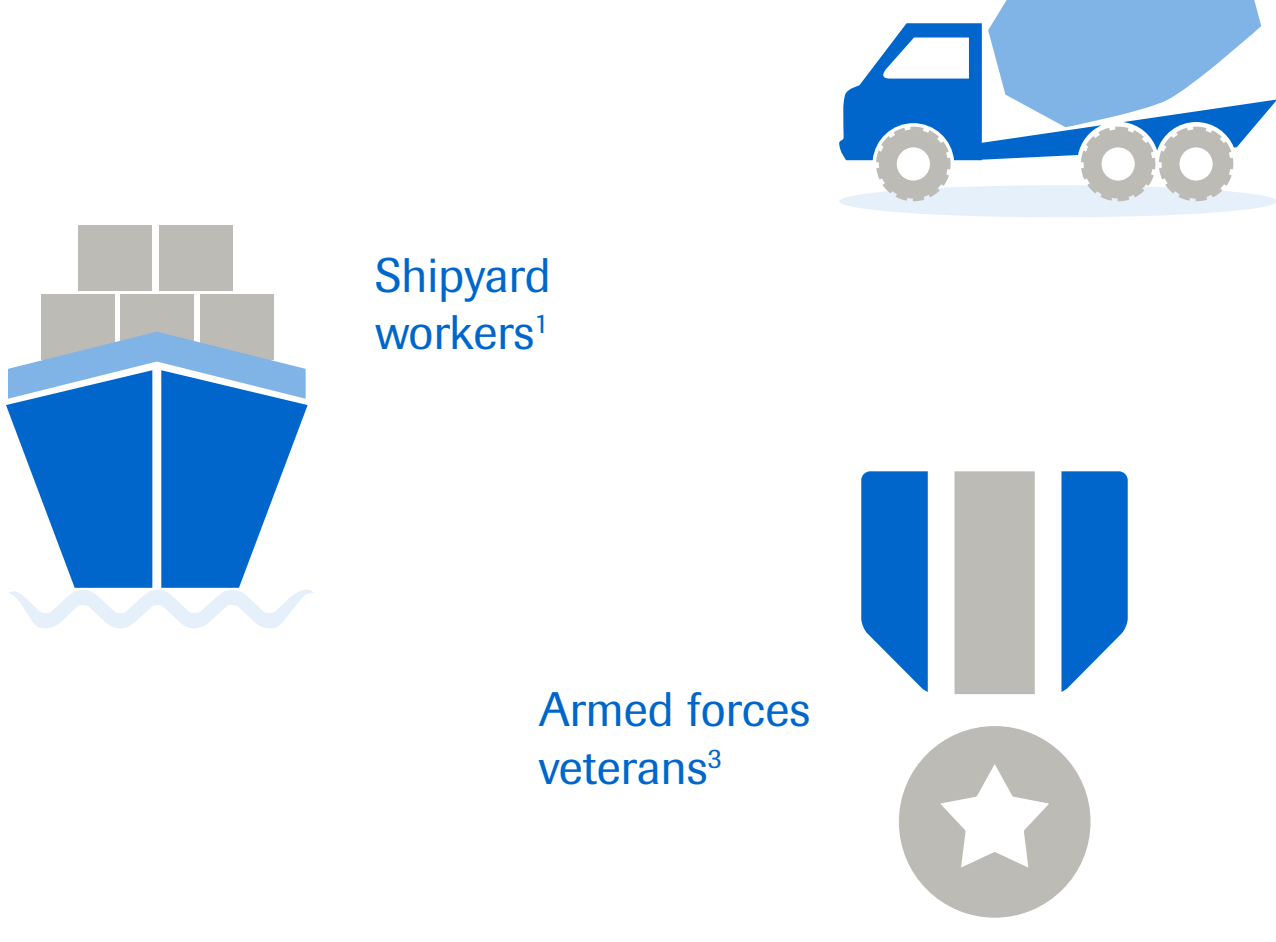
Malignant pleural mesothelioma

A rare and aggressive cancer of the mesothelial cells¹

Mesothelial cells form a **pavement-like** layer around the body's cavities and organs to **line and protect** them. In the lungs, this layer is known as the **pleura**.²

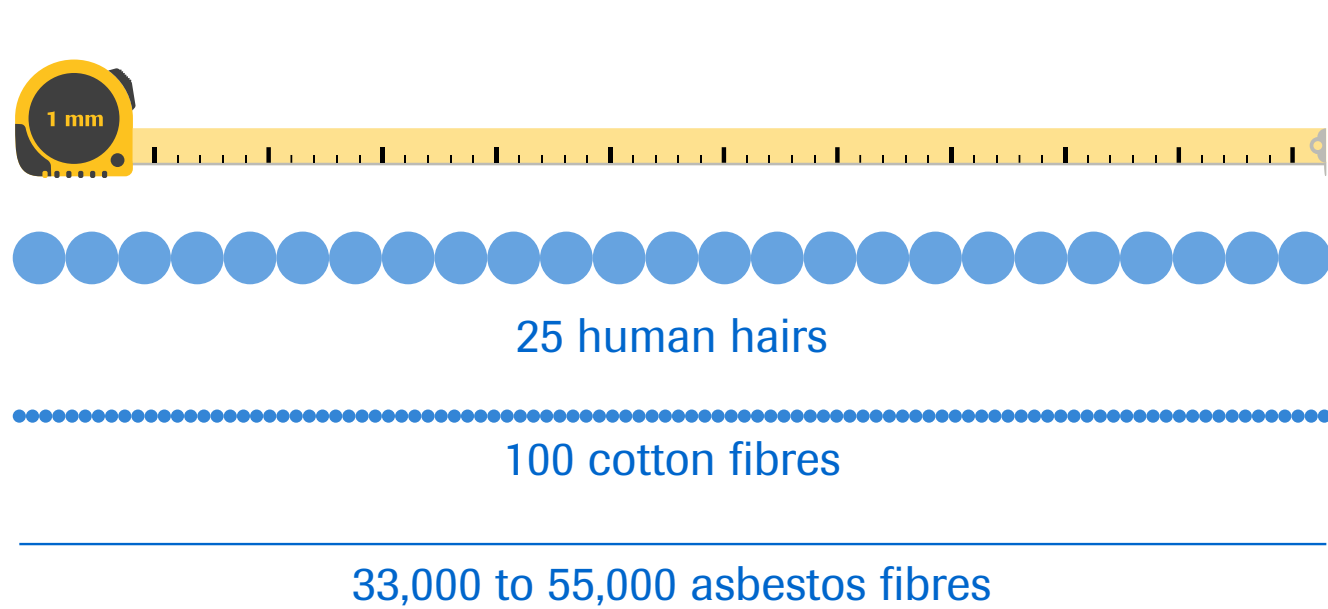


The majority of all cases are traced to men who had exposure to asbestos through working in a number of specific industries.¹

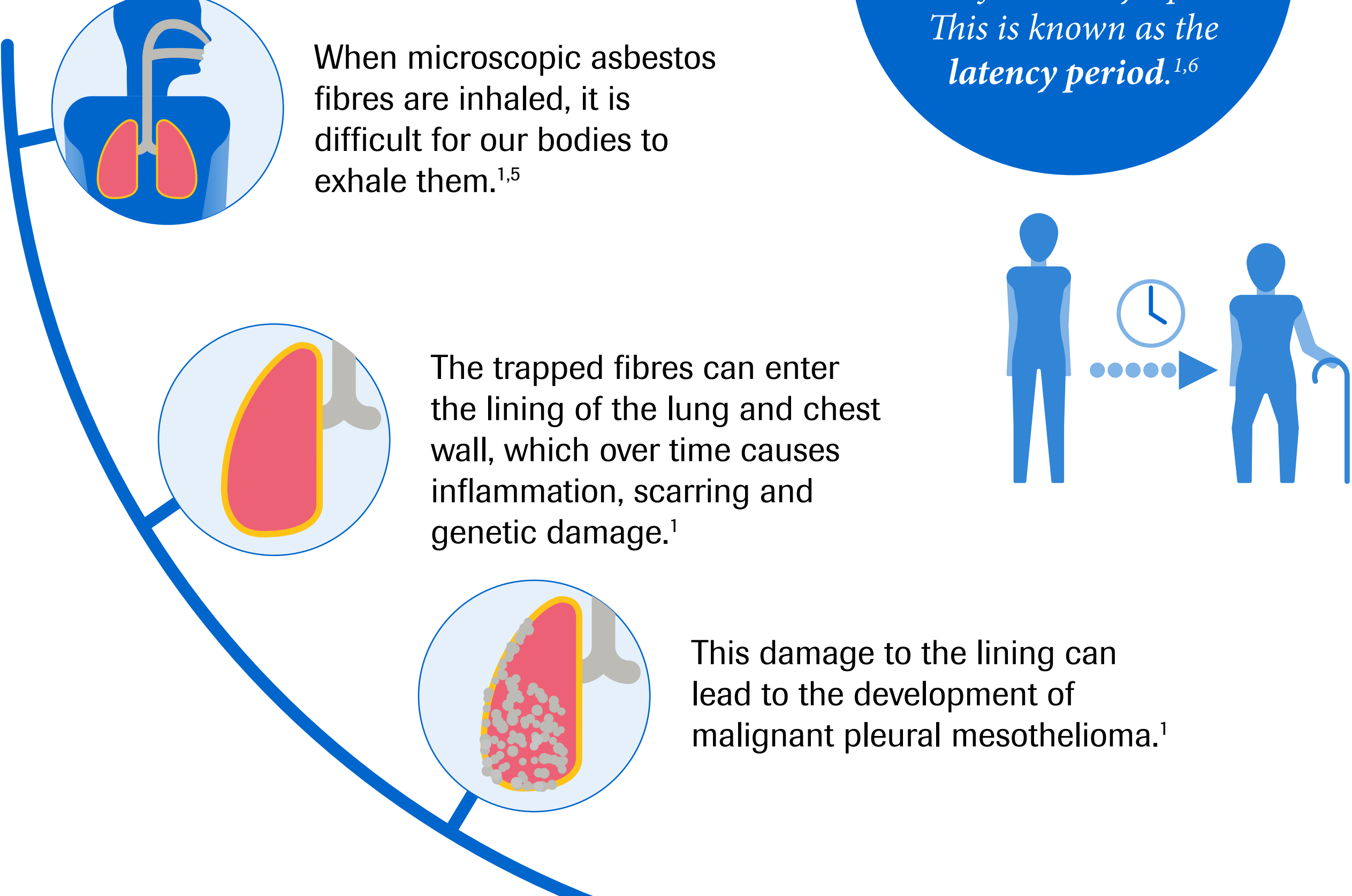


Over **80%** of mesothelioma diagnoses are associated with exposure to **asbestos**.⁴

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral.¹ The microscopic fibres are extremely durable and resistant to fire.¹ As a result asbestos was the material of choice for a number of products until the late 1970s, when it became evident that asbestos posed a threat to human health and safety.^{1,5}



How does malignant pleural mesothelioma develop?



Despite being rare, the **incidence** of mesothelioma worldwide **continues to increase**; it is **yet to reach its peak**.¹

Each year approximately **14,000 people** are diagnosed with mesothelioma.⁷

Researchers suggest that for every **four to five** cases of mesothelioma reported, **one** case will be overlooked.⁷



Other risk factors for malignant pleural mesothelioma include:

Male gender

Mesothelioma is five times more common in men than women.¹

Age

>65
years old

More than 75% of newly diagnosed patients are over 65.⁴

Other factors

Exposure to ionising radiation and SV40 virus.¹

Pleural mesothelioma

Up to 80% of all cases⁸

*Most cases of mesothelioma occur in the lining of the lungs; this is called **malignant pleural mesothelioma**.⁸*

*Other types of mesothelioma can occur but these are **much rarer**.⁸*

Peritoneal mesothelioma

Affects the lining of the abdomen and pelvic cavity

10-20% of all cases⁸

Pericardial mesothelioma

Affects the lining around the heart

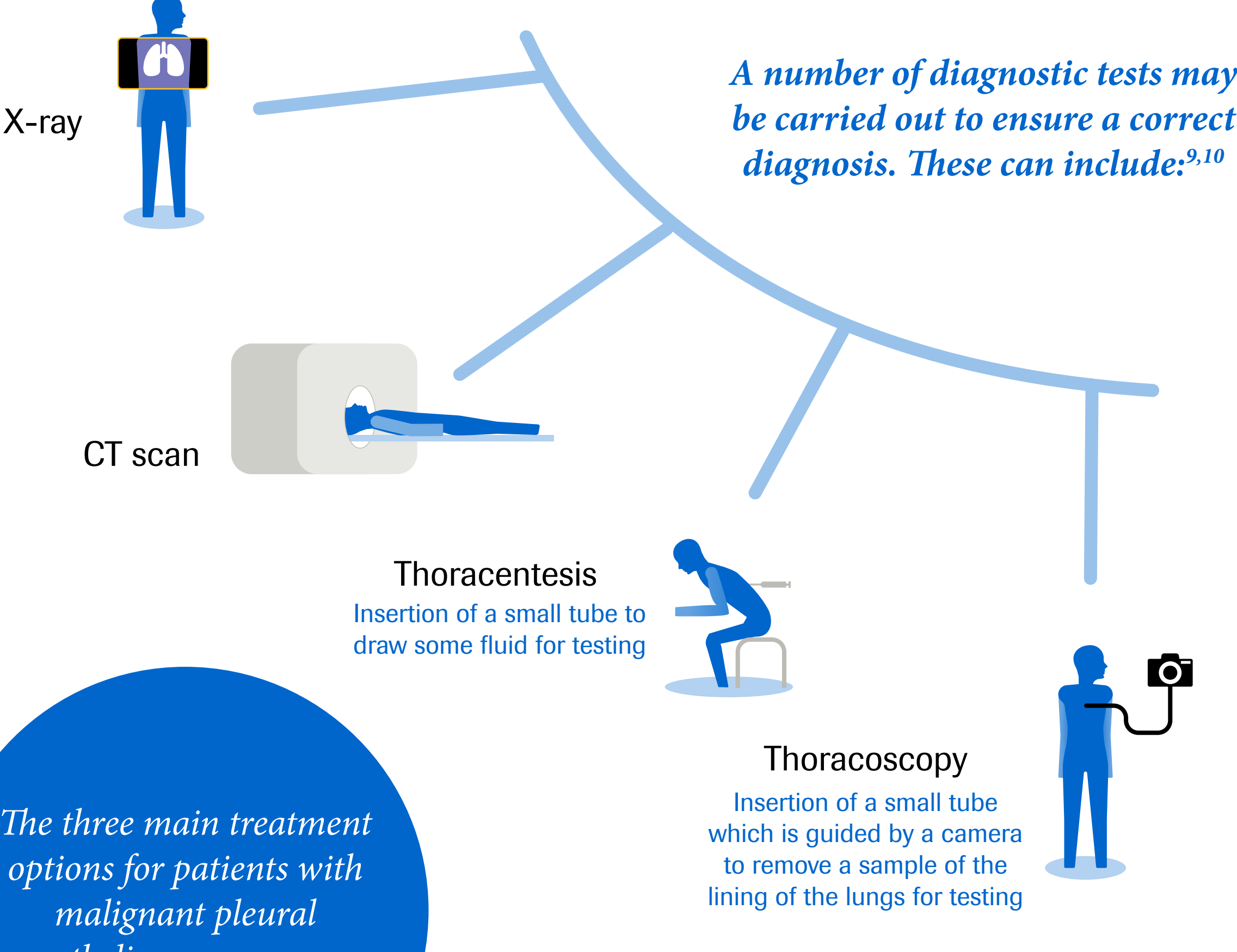
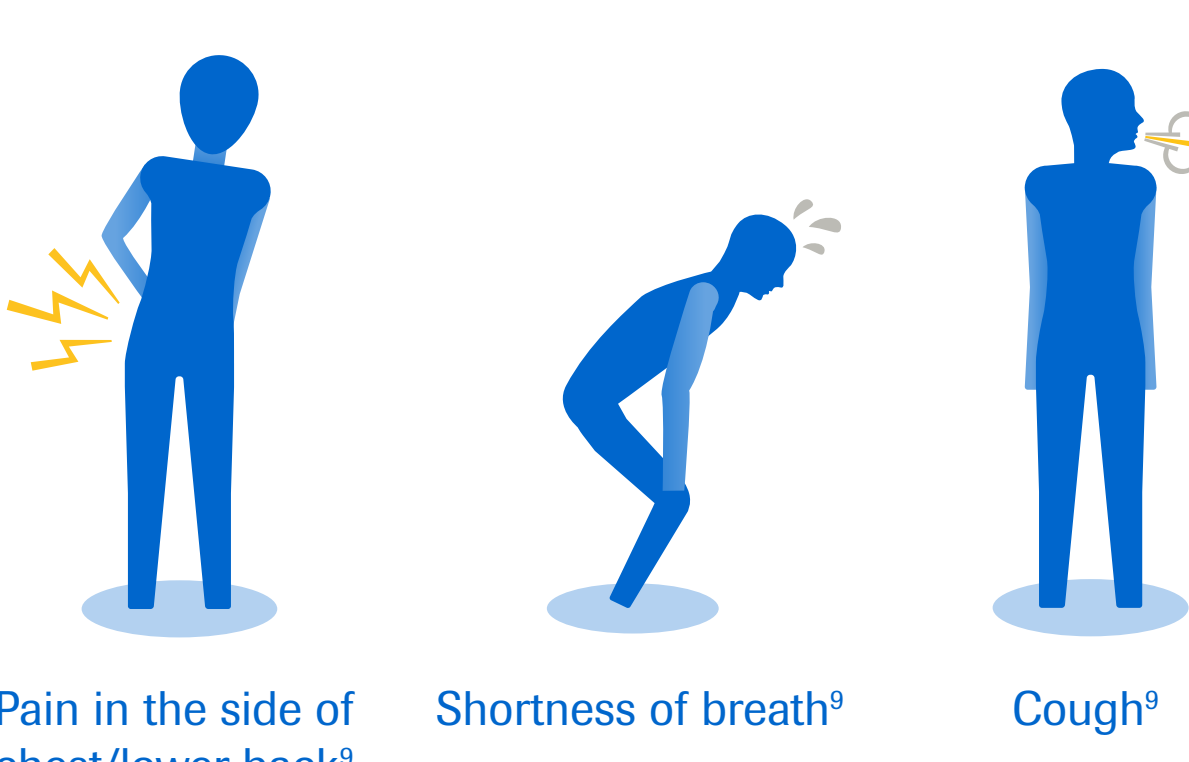
1% of all cases⁸

Testicular mesothelioma

Affects the lining around the testicles

<1% of all cases⁸

The common symptoms of mesothelioma are often ambiguous and can be easy to miss:⁹



The three main treatment options for patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma are surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.⁹

Current treatment options are very limited and the survival time is particularly poor.⁹



In its advanced stages, when most patients are diagnosed, the average survival time is approximately 12 months.⁹

References
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