

# La presenza di corpuscoli dell'asbesto nell'espettorato indotto come indicatore di esposizione ad amianto<sup>1</sup>

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## KEY WORDS

Asbestos bodies; induced sputum; asbestos exposure

## SUMMARY

«*The presence of asbestos bodies in induced sputum as an indicator of asbestos exposure*». **Background:** *Very few references on the usability of presence of asbestos bodies (AB) in induced sputum as an indicator of asbestos exposure are to be found in the scientific literature.* **Objectives:** *The purpose of this study was to prove whether the presence of AB in induced sputum is a valid assessor of asbestos exposure.* **Method:** *This was achieved by comparing the above-mentioned method with the search for AB in bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid and repeating the trials over time in order to study the reproducibility of the results.* **Results:** *There was good agreement of results for the presence/absence of AB in induced sputum and in BAL among subjects who were environmentally exposed and those with a medium-high risk occupational exposure (100%), and poor agreement (66%) among subjects with a low risk occupational exposure. Agreement of results regarding the amount of particles per test was low. The method showed a sufficient reproducibility level (Cohen K=0.5).* **Conclusions:** *Although the presence of asbestos bodies in induced sputum cannot replace bronchoalveolar lavage, it can however be used as a screening test for selecting subjects who should undergo BAL.*