INTRODUCTION

Pneumoconiosis is a general term for specific respiratory diseases that develop after prolonged exposure to harmful forms of dust in industrial workplaces. The main industries associated with pneumoconiosis are mining, construction, and manufacturing. The specific respiratory diseases are silicosis, asbestosis, coal worker’s pneumoconiosis (CWP), and byssinosis according to the Encarta Encyclopedia, 2000 edition, which also gives definitions for each type.

Silicosis: This disease occurs because of prolonged inhalation of silica dust (silicon dioxide SiO2). This dust is found in substances such as concrete, masonry, and rocks. People involved in mining, rock-cutting, sand blasting, metal grinding and other industries are at risk.