

Silicosis

Silicosis is an occupational lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust.

Summary

- Silicosis is an occupational lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust
- Inhaled silica causes lung scarring and nodules, and progressively hampers breathing
- Silicosis is irreversible, and there is no cure or specific treatment
- The condition is managed by avoiding further exposure and treating concurrent infections and respiratory complications
- Silicosis can be prevented by maintaining high occupational health standards

Alternative name

Pneumoconiosis

What is silicosis and what causes it?

Silicosis is an occupational lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust. Silica is a common mineral found in many types of rock, thus workers at risk are those involved in activities that produce rock dust, for example sandblasting, stone-cutting and drilling.