

SUMMARY SHEET OF ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE FBU

Title: Assessment of the emotional stress in patients and their caregivers residing in Broni (PV) following a diagnosis of malignant mesothelioma.

Research entity: Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda, Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico di Milano, UOC Medicina del Lavoro – Registro Mesoteliomi Lombardia (*IRCCS Ca' Granda Foundation, Policlinico Hospital of Milan, Occupational Medicine Unit – Lombardy Mesothelioma Registry*)

Activity location: The questionnaire will be administered in Broni (residence of the subjects), while the data entry and processing activities will be performed at the UOC Medicina del Lavoro, Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Policlinico di Milano (via San Barnaba 8).

Main contact: Dr. Carolina Mensi, Lombardy Mesothelioma Registry, Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda, Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico di Milano.

Summary: Malignant mesothelioma (MM) patients and their caregivers face numerous physical and psychological challenges, mainly associated with the short life expectancy, the lack of effective treatments, and the amount of negative information about their illness. The psychological research conducted at Casale Monferrato (AL), a city known for its high mortality rate from MM caused by a cement-asbestos plant, highlighted the depression, anxiety, feeling of helplessness and lack of hope experienced by both the patients and their families. As well as symptoms of depression, exposure to asbestos has been extensively linked to the onset of post-traumatic syndrome, which appears to be a common reaction for MM patients, most likely due to their awareness and fear of an imminent death. Previous studies have also found that these disturbing emotional states are frequently associated with feelings of anger and betrayal towards the companies and establishments that allowed exposure to asbestos. A similar situation exists in the city of Broni (PV) in Lombardy, where a cement-asbestos manufacturing plant operated between 1932 and 1992 and the incidence of MM is even greater than in Casale Monferrato. The assessment of the psychological impact resulting from a diagnosis of MM will also be offered to patients and family members living in Broni.

Activity duration: 36 months from the date of the availability of funding.