

Diagnosis & staging

Diagnostic procedures in MPM should encompass at least

- Occupational history with emphasis on asbestos exposure [II, A].
- CT scanning of the thorax [II, A].
- In all patients who have a unilateral pleural thickening, with or without fluid and/or calcified asbestos plaques, efforts should be made to obtain a pathological specimen, as there are no specific clinical features of MPM [II, A].
- There is no place for screening of persons exposed to asbestos [IV, B].
- Tumour markers cannot distinguish MPM [II, B].

Staging for every patient with a confirmed diagnosis of MPM

- In the absence of a uniform, robust and validated staging system, experts advocate the use of the most recent TNM-based IMIG/UICC classification [III, B].
- The use of MRI is only recommended in special situations when tumour delineation is necessary [II, B].
- The use of PET scanning is limited and can be used for localisation of tumour sites, distant metastases or early response to treatment, as part of a study protocol [III, B].