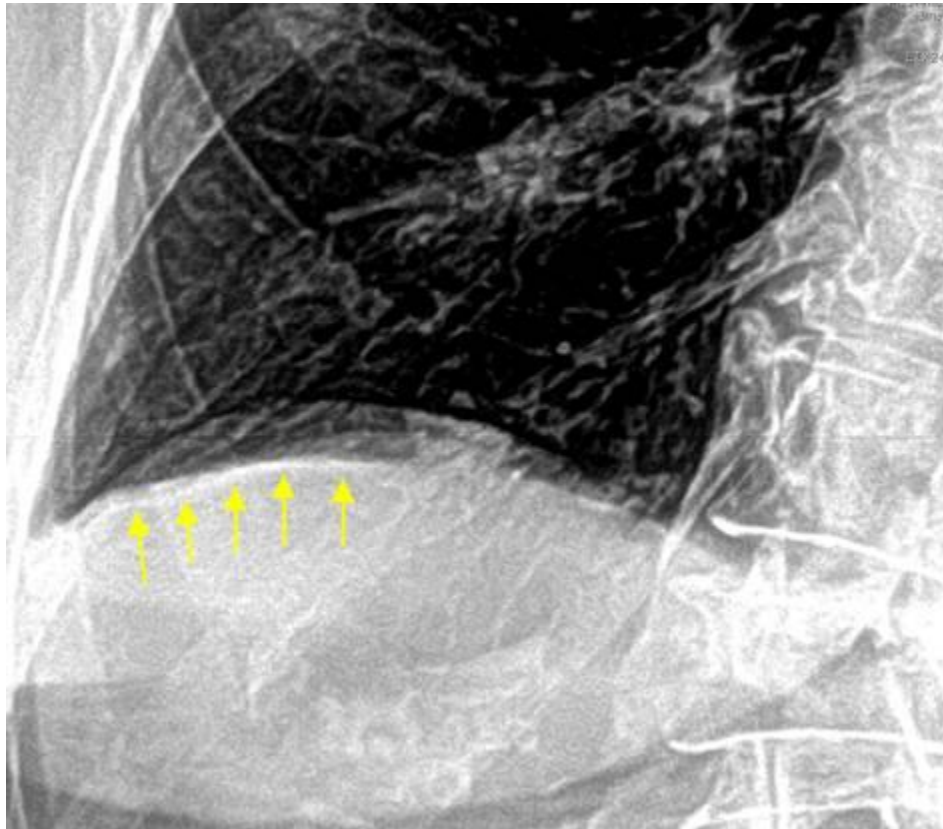


Asbestosis



Asbestosis manifests as scarring of the lung due to repeated inhalation of asbestos fibers. The disease is delayed with changes taking years after exposure to become apparent. If present, symptoms include shortness of breath and a cough. In more advanced cases patients may develop clubbing of the fingers. Asbestosis is often identified incidentally on X-ray. Thin calcification in one or both diaphragms is the most common radiographic finding and is pathognomonic of the disease. Calcified pleural plaquing is also common. Follow-up imaging with chest X-rays and Thin Section CT is indicated. Patients are predisposed to malignant mesothelioma, and need to be monitored over time.