



SUNSHINE COAST
RADIOLOGY



Silicosis Information Guide



What is Silicosis?

Silicosis is an incurable lung disease caused by the inhalation of very fine silica (sand) dust. Silicosis causes inflammation and scar tissue in the lungs. There has been increased media attention for the disease as many workers are developing silicosis and other silica dust diseases, often with only short-term exposure.



Who is at risk?

Workers in areas such as mining and construction are often at higher risk. There is also a current wave of silicosis cases amongst those employed in stone masonry environments, as many workers have been exposed to silica dust, through cutting or fitting engineered stone, commonly used in kitchen and bathroom benchtops.



What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of silicosis can include a nagging cough, shortness of breath or chest pain. Silicosis can be prevented but there is no known cure. Once detected, treatments can help manage the symptoms in consultation with a medical professional. Therefore detection is vital through high quality imaging and diagnostic reporting services.



How can workers be protected?

It is vital to ensure the wellbeing of workers, by establishing safe work practices and to detect silicosis accurately and early in those affected. Employers have a duty to provide a safe working environment and measures should be implemented to minimize any risks to worker health.



Silicosis and stone masonry

Manufactured stone contains up to 95% crystalline silica while natural stone such as marble or granite contains between 5 to 50% crystalline (WorkCover Queensland, 2018). Silicosis is an aggressive and incurable lung disease which results from breathing in this crystalline dust.



Sunshine Coast Radiology Occupational Imaging Services:

At Sunshine Coast Radiology we provide high quality imaging services for occupational workers. Our highly specialised and fully accredited Radiologists provide diagnostic reporting for the detection of silicosis.



Detection guidelines from RANZCR:

"The wellbeing of at risk workers is paramount and it is vital that screening programs detect silicosis accurately and early to ensure that workers are protected. RANZCR recommends that CT is the primary imaging modality for screening exposed workers as it can detect disease earlier and with greater accuracy" (The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, October 2019).





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What is the process for the detection of Silicosis?

If you have symptoms such as shortness of breath or a persistent cough or are concerned about your health as a worker please consult a medical professional.

1

2

Your GP or Specialist may refer you for chest imaging.

You can book your appointment with us on (07) 5430 3900 or bookings@scradiology.com.au.

3

4

We will perform your scan/s and will send the results to your doctor as soon as possible.

Your doctor will meet with you to discuss the results and any further action required. Our collective goal is the protection of your health.

5

6

We can help you book any further appointments for follow up imaging.

Benefits of Sunshine Coast Radiology for the detection of Silicosis:

- Highly experienced Radiologists in field of Occupational Imaging.
- Dedicated on-site healthcare team and state of the art equipment.
- Management of the full end-to-end process.
- Convenient locations in:
 - Bli Bli
 - Buderim
 - Maroochydore
 - Nambour
 - SCUPH
 - Selangor Hospital
 - Sippy Downs
 - Warana

Endorsed by:



lungscreen.com



✉ bookings@scradiology.com.au

🌐 scradiology.com.au

Book an appointment

☎ 07 5430 3900

Excellence in Diagnostics