Background. Turkish Mesothelioma Working Group was established in 2011 and currently includes 150 physicians and academicians from 40 universities and 14 state hospitals. The group has experts from all fields, including pulmonary medicine, thoracic surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, radiology, pathology, nuclear medicine, occupational medicine, public health, mineralogy. The aim was to publish a guideline to standardize epidemiologic evaluation, clinical diagnosis and treatment of mesothelioma patients in Turkey.

Methods. The group made three serial meetings and four panel groups were established, namely, Pathogenesis; Epidemiologic, clinical and diagnostics; Pathology and Treatment. Titles and subtitles were determined and members volunteered for their fields of expertise. Each group wrote their recommendations using the recommendations of Turkish Thoracic Society for evidence based evaluation. The groups also benefited from Asbestos Diseases Research Institute and ERS-ESTS guidelines. In a final meeting in April 2014, the group finalized their recommendations.

Results. The main differences of this guideline arise from the originality of type of exposure in Turkey, which is mainly environmental. Also MPM is observed in earlier ages which comprise a challenge in terms of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions. If there is any history of environmental asbestos/erionite exposure and new onset chest pain, MPM should be excluded with medical thoracoscopy or VATS. MPM can be observed in younger individuals (35-60 years) if environmental exposure starts from birth.

Conclusions. Novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches are needed in MPM
and this can only be achieved with a multidisciplinary working group. Our working group published a guideline to standardize the diagnosis and management of this difficult disease in Turkey.