

Shingles treatment continues to evolve

New research shows promise in preventing eye complications

ANCHOR LEDE

Shingles.

It's a word that stings just coming out of your mouth. And it's certainly an illness you want to avoid.

There are time-tested treatments for the disease that's associated with chickenpox – namely an effective vaccine.

TAKE VO

Doctor Fred Burke with OSF HealthCare says the virus can lie dormant and get activated later in life, causing a rash which can last for three to five weeks. We treat it with antiviral medication.

Catching the disease *early* is key because there can be complications, including redness and swelling in the eyes.

SOT

Dr. Fred Burke

OSF HealthCare emergency department physician

"We treat that with antiviral medication. We consult an ophthalmologist because the person may also need steroids. It's good to treat this quickly because it can lead to vision loss." (:15)

VO TAG

Burke recommends you get the chickenpox and shingles vaccine when you reach the right age.