

Soundbite Script – Broadcast – The Worst Headache of Your Life

Dr. Ayman Gheith, Co-Stroke Director, OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center

“A brain aneurysm is a bulge on the side of a blood vessel. I like to compare it to your tire. When you get that welt or bulge on the inlay of the tire and your mechanic tells you that you have to change it. As a bulge happens on an aneurysm that bulge stretches and thins the wall of the vessel and makes it weak. The risk of brain aneurysm is the risk of rupture. If that aneurysm bleeds, especially in the brain and the brain is in a closed box, it’s sitting in the skull. A brain bleed can be life threatening.”

Dr. Ayman Gheith, Co-Stroke Director, OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center

“In the big scheme of things aneurysms are typically not as common as other diseases. Less than 5 % of the percent of the population has them and less than 2 % of that population has them treated. We don’t treat every single aneurysm; it depends on the size of the aneurysm, the location of the aneurysm, the age of the person and their medical co-morbidities.”

Dr. Ayman Gheith, Co-Stroke Director, OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center

“The symptoms are very commonly the worst headache of your life. This isn’t something subtle. It feels like a ton of bricks were dropped on your head. If anyone is to develop a sudden onset of the worst headache of your life, I consider that a medical emergency. You need to call 9-1-1 and go to the emergency room and be evaluated.”

Dr. Ayman Gheith, Co-Stroke Director, OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center

“In my mind there are few things that put more fear in someone’s heart than hearing they have a brain aneurysm. The take home message is brain aneurysms are not terminal diseases. These are processes that are scary, but it’s something we can treat and it’s something that can be treated very safely these days with the devices and the tools we have at our disposal.”