

Soundbite Script – Broadcast – The Pipeline between Smoking and Bladder Cancer

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“Typically it’s found in older adults. Over the age of 55 is the age we see bladder cancer. Men are predominately more affected than women. Part of it has to do with the fact that smoking has such a high correlation with bladder cancer; statistically men smoke more than women in this country.”

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“The number one risk factor for bladder cancer by far is smoking. Over 90% of bladder cancer cases you can usually find heavy smoking or a history of heavy smoking. There aren’t any other specific risk factors to point out or something you can avoid. It’s really smoking that one would need to stop.”

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“The prognosis for bladder cancer as with most other cancers just depends on the stage, meaning how soon it was found. Certainly if it was non-invasive has a very good prognosis and even if it becomes muscle invasive – if there’s no positive lymph nodes – then again good prognosis. But once the cancer moves, the chance of cure does go down.”

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“The main take-home message is to quit smoking. Not only does that reduce your risk of bladder cancer, but it also reduces your risk of many other cancers as well as lung problems in general.”