

Soundbite Script – Living with Multiple Myeloma

Peggy Rogers, Nurse Practitioner, Genetics and Medical Oncology, OSF HealthCare

“Multiple Myeloma is a blood cancer and it actually affects the white blood cells called plasma cells. They work to make antibodies and when they work normally all is well. But in multiple myeloma these plasma cells go awry, so to speak, and they make an abundant amount of them, which decreases a person’s immune system and can cause a lot of other health issues related to this diagnosis.”

Peggy Rogers, Nurse Practitioner, Genetics and Medical Oncology, OSF HealthCare

“It is not very common. It’s only about 1-2 % of patients affected with cancer. Typically it affects people 65 and over, predominantly seen in males and higher frequency in the African American population and we’ve also seen it in men affected by Agent Orange.”

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“Patients oftentimes can present with renal dysfunction. They can have bone pain, anemia, and they may have frequent infections as well.”

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“It is very treatable and patients do well with therapy. They will likely be on some type of maintenance therapy for the duration. They are living longer and having more success in longer intervals between treatments.”