

Soundbite Script – A Real Gut Punch

Dr. Ismael Shaukat, Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“There’s about 26,000 cases that occur in the United States a year and, unfortunately, about 11,000 deaths per year because of this. And this accounts for about 1.5% of all cancers that we see.”

Dr. Ismael Shaukat, Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“The exact cause of stomach cancer is not known. But we think it’s due to certain reasons such as lifestyle – obesity, smoking, and drinking. These are some of the factors, and there are heredity reasons as well. There are families who have (a history of) breast cancer that can have stomach cancer as well due to certain mutations that occur in those situations.”

Dr. Ismael Shaukat, Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“Sometimes the symptoms can be vague. They can be abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, the inability to swallow, but you can also experience fatigue. That’s because you have what is called occult bleeding, meaning bleeding that occurs that we don’t see and that can lead to a lower hemoglobin, which can lead to fatigue.”

Dr. Ismael Shaukat, Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“Unfortunately, we don’t have screening like we do in colon cancer and breast cancer. But we can do certain things like lead a healthy lifestyle, diet modification, exercise, avoidance of a sedentary lifestyle, these are some of the things we can do to help prevent this from happening.”

Dr. Ismael Shaukat, Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“There has been some changes to the treatment of gastric cancer. There’s been changes in the modality of surgery, the type of regimens we use in chemotherapy, as well as radiation therapy. Also, there’s been a paradigm shift towards chemotherapy and surgery alone, but radiation therapy definitely plays a role in certain cases.”