

Soundbite Script – Spreading the word about multiple sclerosis

Dr. Tiffani Franada, Neurologist, OSF HealthCare

“Usually, when it first presents MS is characterized by a relapse. So it may be new symptoms that last for days at a time, and it can affect vision so patients could have a loss of vision. It could cause numbness on one side or both sides of the body, weakness on one side or both sides of the body and include really terrible balance episodes. These events usually lasts longer than a day. If patients are having those symptoms they need to seek care and talk to their primary care doctor and get referred potentially to a neurologist.”

Dr. Tiffani Franada, Neurologist, OSF HealthCare

“A lot of patients who are diagnosed are diagnosed young within their working years and that can be very difficult, and a lot of patients are women. People are affected with MS at a rate of three to one female to male – many of these women are in their careers and might be considering starting families. There’s a lot to put into that, considering how that will affect their day-to-day life.”

Dr. Tiffani Franada, Neurologist, OSF HealthCare

“I think that we should all be very hopeful. The world of MS has changed precipitously in the past 30 years. The first treatment for this disease came in 1993 and since then, we have 20 different treatment options for this disease so we've really come a long way. If we diagnose patients early, we really can treat their symptoms and help to get them on a productive path to hopefully ever prevent any further disease activity.”

Dr. Tiffani Franada, Neurologist, OSF HealthCare

“I think it's empowering and we definitely want to get the word out. We want patients to seek care, we want them to be in our clinic, we want to be able to help them to diagnose the condition, but also to understand that it is okay to use an assist device for walking. We much rather them be safe rather than sorry.”