

Soundbite script – Taking a swing at Guillain-Barré Syndrome

Dr. Asma Khan, pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

"Guillain-Barré Syndrome is an illness that we see often in adults, but we can see it in children as well. It's an inflammation of the body. It's like an autoimmune disease but it's an inflammation where the body attacks its nerve cells." (:20)

Dr. Asma Khan, pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

"Usually there's an illness about a few weeks prior to the onset of Guillain-Barré, within four to six weeks prior, and it's either a GI infection or upper respiratory infection." (:12)

Dr. Asma Khan, pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

"We see signs of weakness. We see some nerve issues where they have numbness, tingling, and weakness of the muscles progresses from your lower extremities, from your legs all the way up, and it can even reach your eyes, your lungs. So, it's progressive." (:20)

Dr. Asma Khan, pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

"We notice the child having leg pain and refusing to walk or having an abnormal gait. That's usually your triggering factor that you notice first, and then, upon evaluation, you notice weakness in the lower extremities, and then the reflexes are diminished or absent." (:19)

Dr. Asma Khan, pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

"We want to make sure they're eating okay. So as the weakness progresses, is it affecting their ability to swallow or choking? Do we need to give them a feeding tube? Do we need to give them fluids? And then the big thing that we need to really watch is respiratory status." (:16)