

Liver cancer: More cases, but better treatment

*****SOT*****

Marcie Lindstrom, APRN

OSF HealthCare gastroenterology provider

"There are multiple causes of liver cancer. A person is at a higher risk if they have a damaged liver. Things that can cause a damaged liver include alcohol. So heavy alcohol use [is a risk]. Viruses that can infect the liver such as hepatitis B and C [are risks]. And we're seeing an increasing number of people having fatty liver disease. That puts people at risk for liver damage. That damage can progress to cirrhosis [scarring], and cirrhosis puts you at a higher risk." (:41)

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"If we determine somebody has a lot of scarring of the liver, they should be on regular surveillance looking for liver cancer. Every six months, they should get some imaging and possibly a blood test that helps to detect cancer." (:16)

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"A liver transplant could be required if the tumor isn't very large, but there's a lot of damage or scarring of the liver." (:11)

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"You have a history of blood transfusions prior to 1992. You got a tattoo or piercing in a less than sanitary situation. I'd recommend getting screened. In fact, it's a current recommendation to be screened for hepatitis C at least once in adulthood." (:23)