

## Esophageal Cancer: Signs and Symptoms

OSF HealthCare Newsroom

Matt Sheehan – Media Relations Coordinator

### BROADCAST SCRIPT

#### INTRO:

ROUGHLY 20-THOUSAND AMERICANS ARE DIAGNOSED WITH ESOPHAGEAL CANCER EACH YEAR. IT'S A FORM OF CANCER MORE COMMONLY SEEN IN MEN – WITH AROUND 1 IN EVERY 1-HUNDRED MEN... OR 1 IN EVERY 4-HUNDRED WOMEN BEING DIAGNOSED IN THEIR LIFETIME.

#### TAKE VO

WHILE OTHER FORMS OF CANCER HAVE SPECIFIC SCREENINGS TO FIND THE DISEASE – ESOPHAGEAL CANCER TREATMENT GREATLY RELIES ON THE PRESENCE OF SYMPTOMS. THESE COULD BE WHEN SOMEONE HAS TROUBLE SWALLOWING – CALLED DYSPHAGIA. YOU CAN ALSO HAVE REFLUX OR HEARTBURN THAT DOESN'T GET BETTER WITH MEDICATIONS – WEIGHT LOSS... COUGHING... SHORTNESS OF BREATH AND CHEST PAIN CAN BE SIGNS AS WELL. DR. KYLE STANG – A RADIATION ONCOLOGIST WITH OSF HEALTHCARE – SAYS ESOPHAGEAL CANCER IS A MORE AGGRESSIVE FORM OF CANCER. HE EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEING YOUR DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF SYMPTOMS ARE PRESENT.

#### TAKE 25 SECOND SOT

“The way we treat Esophageal Cancer really depends on the stage and scenario. For some types of very early stage Esophageal Cancer, we can treat that with procedures or surgery alone. For most patients, we're talking about chemotherapy and radiation therapy for about five and a half weeks. Following that, we'll typically re-evaluate someone to see if they're a good candidate for surgery to take out the tumor in the esophagus or the upper part of the stomach.”

#### VO TAG

DR. STANG SAYS SOME COMMON RISK FACTORS FOR ESOPHAGEAL CANCER INCLUDE ALCOHOL... SMOKING... AND OBESITY. HE ADDS THAT THE PRE-EXISTING CONDITION OF GASTRO-ESOPHAGEAL REFLUX DISEASE – COMMONLY KNOWN AS **GERD** – AND BARRETT'S ESOPHAGUS – WHICH IS A CONDITION RELATED TO CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE ESOPHAGUS – ARE MAJOR FACTORS TO KEEP AN EYE ON.

#### VO/SOT #2

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## TAKE 23 SECOND SOT

“The ongoing clinical trials have been looking at a new form of treatment called Immunotherapy. Newer trials are looking at this therapy to see if we can bring in that new agent after chemotherapy and radiation therapy to see if we can improve outcomes.”

## VO TAG

WHILE THE IMMUNOTHERAPY TRIALS MAY NOT PROVIDE RESULTS FOR YEARS – DR. STANG REMINDS YOU TO SEE YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF ANY SYMPTOMS WE MENTIONED ARE NOTICED.