

Cancer vaccines | BROADCAST

INTRO:

IT'S KNOWN AS THE SECOND-LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH: CANCER. WHETHER IT'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE... LOVED ONE OR A FRIEND... EVERYONE HAS BEEN IMPACTED BY IT. THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY PROJECTS MORE THAN 2-POINT-1 MILLION CASES OF CANCER AND ROUGHLY 2-HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2026.

TAKE VO

WHILE CANCER DEATHS HAVE DECREASED OVER THE YEARS... CERTAIN TYPES OF CANCERS ARE AFFECTING YOUNGER PEOPLE MORE... NOW THREATENING THE PROGRESS MADE BY STRATEGIES LIKE EARLY DETECTION AND A DECREASE IN SMOKING.

A FAMILIAR YET – TO SOME – UNEXPECTED TREATMENT MAY NOW OFFER HOPE FOR MULTIPLE HIGH-RISK CANCERS: VACCINES... AN IDEA THAT DATES BACK TO THE 1890S.

JUST THIS YEAR ALONE – MULTIPLE VACCINES ARE SEEING POSITIVE RESPONSES IN THOSE WITH MELANOMA... CERTAIN PEOPLE WITH PANCREATIC CANCER... AND COLORECTAL CANCER.

DR. ROBERT MCWILLIAMS – THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OSF HEALTHCARE CANCER INSTITUTE – EXPLAINS THE RESEARCH AND PROGRESS TAKING PLACE.

TAKE SOT | DR. ROBERT MCWILLIAMS | DEPUTY DIRECTOR | OSF HEALTHCARE CANCER INSTITUTE

“What we’re seeing now is really the culmination of a number of technologies improving. One is understanding the immune system and deciding when’s the right timing, and when do vaccines make sense. Using mRNA vaccines; that technology is really applicable to many different scenarios. So, we can create a molecule or a vaccine that’s targeted towards a specific finding. For instance, one of the more common instances that has been done lately is KRAS. It’s an oncogene, which means it’s mutated and has turned “on” in cancer cells in a large number of different cancers. You can actually design a vaccine against that.”

VO TAG

THE MELANOMA VACCINE HAD PROMISING RESULTS IN A LATE STAGE TRIAL... WHILE A PANCREATIC CANCER VACCINE PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS IN THOSE WHO WERE AT AN ELEVATED RISK FOR PANCREATIC DUCTAL ADENOCARCINOMA... ONE OF THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF PANCREATIC CANCER. A NEW VACCINE TARGETING COLORECTAL CANCER IS ALSO PROVIDING HOPE FOR THOSE WITH LYNCH SYNDROME... AN INHERITED GENETIC CONDITION WHICH IS OFTEN TIED TO COLORECTAL CANCER. DR. MCWILLIAMS SAYS HE AND HIS TEAM ARE IN CONVERSATIONS TO BRING CANCER VACCINES AND MORE STUDIES TO PEORIA... PROVIDING MORE HOPE FOR PEOPLE ACROSS THE REGION.