

Melanoma Risk in Rural America (Broadcast)

INTRO:

MELANOMA IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH SUN EXPOSURE. BUT GROWING RESEARCH SHOWS THE STORY IS MORE COMPLEX... ESPECIALLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL AREAS.

TAKE VO

FARMERS... AGRICULTURE WORKERS AND OTHERS WHO SPEND LONG HOURS OUTDOORS MAY FACE UNIQUE AND LAYERED RISKS THAT GO BEYOND SUNLIGHT ALONG.

RESEARCH OUT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOUND 15 CLUSTERS OF MELANOMA RATES IN BOTH RURAL AND METROPOLITAN AREAS... WHO HAD HIGHER AMOUNT OF CULTIVATED CROPLAND... AND GREATER HERBICIDE USE. OTHER STUDIES SUGGEST CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS MAY INCREASE SENSITIVITY TO SUNLIGHT... AND INTERFERE WITH IMMUNE FUNCTION OF CAUSE DNA DAMAGE. ALL OF WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO MELANOMA DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME.

DR. JAMES MCGEE... THE PRESIDENT OF OSF HEALTHCARE CANCER INSTITUTE... SHARES A POSITIVE LIGHT ON HOW HE AND HIS TEAM HAVE FOUND MORE SUCCESSFUL WAYS TO TREAT MELANOMA.

TAKE SOT | DR. JAMES MCGEE | PRESIDENT | OSF HEALTHCARE CANCER INSTITUTE

"More and more we're seeing that immunotherapy is coming into play for a possible treatment of melanoma. We've known for a long time that melanomas can act weirdly," Dr. McGee points out. "There have been a lot of reports that were thought to be just happenstance of patients treated with radiosurgery for brain metastases for melanoma, who then had other lesions in their body, get better as well. Those weren't radiated."

VO TAG

DR. MCGEE EMPHASIZES THAT IT'S NOT JUST LONG-TERM SUN EXPOSURE THAT CAN BE DANGEROUS... IT'S EVEN JUST A FEW INTENSE SUN DAMAGE EPISODES THAT CAN LEAD TO SKIN CANCERS OF ALL KIND. DATA FROM THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SHOWS MELANOMA DEATH RATES IN THE U.S. SHARPLY DECLINED BETWEEN 2013 AND 2022... LARGELY DUE TO TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS.