

SCRIPT-BROADCAST-Turning Back Time Takes Its Toll

When we set the clock back one hour Saturday night, most of us think we'll get an extra hour of sleep. Not really.

Dr. Kaninika (**kuh-NEE-NUH-kuh**) Verma, Clinical Sleep Director for OSF HealthCare, says research shows most people simply stay up later and watch a little more TV, play on their computers, or in some cases drink more alcohol because bars stay open later.

What's more, the time change will mess with the body's sleep-wake cycle because of light, which controls our body clocks, will be different. The so called rebooting could start sooner than what the clock is telling you is the time to wake up.

SOT-Dr. Kaninika Verma, Director of Sleep Medicine for OSF HealthCare

"You've got more stress hormones than what you're used to for that time period because you're starting to wake up or your alarm clock is going off when you think you should be sleeping a little bit longer. So that's why we see that bump in the number of heart attacks around that time." (:13)

In fact, many scientists see an increased risk for heart attack and stroke during the days following a time change. Tiredness induced by the clock change is thought to be the main cause for the increase in [traffic accidents](#) on the Monday following the start of DST.

Dr. Verma suggests preparing for the time change by going to bed 15 minutes later the four days leading up to the change.

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"If you want to switch your clock, do it in 15 minute increments and don't expect it to happen overnight. You can't just go to bed an hour ahead and expect it to work. It's just not going to happen." (:11)

So, if you go to bed at 9 p.m., she suggests starting to go at 9:15 p.m., then 9:30 p.m., then 9:45 p.m. and finally 10 p.m. which will then be your usual 9 p.m. sleep time when you set your clock back over the weekend.

Dr. Verma says sleep is not a luxury. It is a vital sign and not getting enough sleep, or getting poor-quality sleep, increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. Sleep deprivation also hurts the body's immune system so you can get sick more easily.

At Home Sleep Study

If you've been hesitant to do anything about your trouble sleeping, this might be an incentive. Dr. Verma says technology has advanced so many people can do an **at-home** sleep study rather than having to spend the night in a sleep lab. A patient who meets certain criteria can take equipment home to record critical measurements.

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"It's looking at air flow from the nose; how much air you're moving. Bands around the chest to see if you're moving. An oximeter to see what oxygen levels are and also there is a snore mic so we know if someone's snoring, we can hear the snoring too." (:14)

Many sleep disorders go undiagnosed and Dr. Verma points out that can affect not only your health, but personal relationships impacted by changes in mood, motivation and productivity.

***Additional content for web story**

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[Here are some Tips for Better Sleeping](#) from OSF HealthCare's Illinois Neurological Institute

[Answer this quick quiz](#) to find out how much you know about sleep.

Get Help

[Learn more about sleep disorders](#) and [find a provider](#) to help address your sleep-related problems.