

Soundbite script – EKOS: A game changer in treating blood clots

Monther El Bzour (L-BA-ZOAR), MD, cardiologist, OSF HealthCare

"If we care for someone with a blood clot that is big enough in the lungs, or a bigger clot in the legs, we insert EKOS. It has a technology that emits ultrasound waves to break the clot into smaller pieces. We also infuse a clot-buster medication called tPA [tissue plasminogen activator]. These two together can help to dissolve the clot in a very fast way, and that helps the patient to feel much better within minutes or hours." (:35)

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"If you have a blood clot in small veins below the knee, we don't use this technology. If you have smaller blood clots in the lungs and they are in very small arteries, we don't use this technology. It's only meant to tackle the complicated, the massive blood clots, either in the lung or the leg." (:19)

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"If I can offer you something to feel better quickly, I think we're all for it. And I can say [EKOS] is a game changer for the management of blood clots." (:11)

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"It is a very serious problem, and the quicker you can make it to the emergency room and to a hospital that offer this technology the better outcome and the chance to be alive and feeling better." (:14)