

## **COVID-19 and its Impact on the Heart – Soundbite Transcripts**

**Dr. Chetan Bhardwaj, Cardiologist, OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute**

**On heart vs lungs**

“I think the initial recognition of what this virus is, the mode of entry kind of made us focus more toward the lungs, but it really does effect a lot on the heart as well.” (:11)

**Dr. Chetan Bhardwaj, Cardiologist, OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute**

**On COVID and the heart**

“COVID 19 has effects on the heart. It is one of these viruses that we’ve learned to describe as what we call cardiotropic, so they have an affinity to attack the heart. There are receptors where these viruses go and attach so that they can attack the cells, and those receptors are present in the heart.” (:20)

**Dr. Chetan Bhardwaj, Cardiologist, OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute**

**On poor prognosis**

“The heart gets affected somewhat more in the later stage of the disease, and people that have their hearts afflicted with this virus, in the literature at least, are shown to be very bad in terms of prognosis. They tend to have a much worse outcome and clinical course.” (:18)

**Dr. Chetan Bhardwaj, Cardiologist, OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute**

**On prevention**

“If you have preexisting heart conditions, if you have preexisting diabetes, hypertension, immunosuppression, you are at a higher risk of a bad outcome with this virus. Doing everything that the CDC recommends, and this should be standard practice now, and it shouldn’t be debatable.” (:19)