

BROADCAST SCRIPT-Planting the Seed for Better Breast Cancer Treatment

When 63 year-old Alice Fillback of Godfrey, Illinois received her breast cancer diagnosis last year, she had one good reason to be very scared. The disease already claimed the life of a sibling.

SOT-Breast cancer patient Alice Fillback

“Anytime anyone who has a family member who died from breast cancer, or even had breast cancer, that’s the first thing that pops into my mind, ‘Oh my gosh, my sister died from the same thing they’re telling me I have.’” (:17)

After learning from her doctor she caught it early and that she could have an easier experience because of new technology, Fillback was confident she would beat what killed her sister.

She recalls the procedure to implant the tiny magnetic seed to guide the surgeon to her breast tumor, was quick and painless.

SOT-Breast cancer patient Alice Fillback

“I was able to go on with my day, the day before surgery and get ready for the hospital. I remember cleaning my house and I’m honestly sure it didn’t hurt because I was able to clean the house and get ready for my hospital stay.” (:19)

Dr. Alejandro Sanz, Fillback’s surgeon at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Illinois says the traditional implantation of a guide wire into the breast the day of surgery could take a couple of hours and added to the already stressful time for patients.

SOT-Dr. Alejandro Sanz, breast cancer surgeon at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Illinois

“That could sometimes be traumatic to patients, causing pain and other problems like the wire can get dislodged or something can happen and usually that takes several hours in order for that to get placed.” (:17)

SOT-Dr. Alejandro Sanz, breast cancer surgeon at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Illinois

Dr. Alejandro Sanz explains using a metal detector-like probe, guided by the magnetic seed, allows for a more targeted approach for tumor removal.

“We use these technologies so we can treat exactly where the tumor is located, remove less amount of tissue from the breast which I know is important to many of our patients, but at the same time we offer a good, safe, oncology procedure.” (:20)

Breast Health Navigator and 9 year breast cancer survivor Heather Jones agrees patients have a much better experience the day of their surgery because the magnetic seed can be implanted through a quick procedure up to 30 days before their lumpectomy.

SOT-Breast Health Navigator and 9 year breast cancer survivor Heather Jones

“It takes about five minutes at most from the time you get numbed up and the time you get it (the seed implanted). You go down and you get a picture with a mammogram and you go home. It’s very simple, very easy. The radiologists are in and out so I don’t have to block a lot

of time for these patients to come in and it just makes that whole flow for them (patients) so much better.” (:21)

Jones points out OSF Saint Anthony’s is the only hospital in the region offering magnetic seed marking for breast cancer surgery.

[Learn more](#) about the cancer care options available to you through OSF HealthCare.