

Don't confuse these types of cancer

ANCHOR LEDE

Anal and rectal cancer occur in parts of the body near each other, and they both have prevention steps and time-tested treatments. But they are different types of cancer.

TAKE VO

Doctor Raman Kumar, a colorectal surgeon with OSF HealthCare, says the rectum is the last part of the colon, where stool is stored. The anus is where stool comes out. Often, an anal cancer diagnosis starts when a person believes they have hemorrhoids.

SOT

Dr. Raman Kumar [RAH-mahn // koo-MARR]

OSF HealthCare colorectal surgeon

"It turns out not to be a hemorrhoid. It could be a mass or a lesion. You could have some bleeding, especially when you're wiping with toilet paper or wet wipes." (:08)

VO TAG

Aside from general healthy habits, the best way to prevent these cancers is a screening colonoscopy. Talk to your doctor on when you should start. Treatment for these cancers include chemotherapy, radiation therapy or surgery.