

Liver cancer: More cases, but better treatment

ANCHOR LEDE

It's not a common cancer, but experts say cases of liver cancer are on the rise. Luckily, treatment and education on risks have evolved too.

TAKE VO

OSF HealthCare gastroenterology provider Marcie Lindstrom says if your liver is damaged from alcohol or hepatitis, you're at a higher risk for liver cancer. Unsanitary needles can also raise your risk.

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Marcie Lindstrom, APRN
OSF HealthCare

"If we determine somebody has a lot of scarring of the liver, they should be on regular surveillance looking for liver cancer. Every six months, they should get some imaging and possibly a blood test that helps to detect cancer." (:16)

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Chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy and, in serious cases, a liver transplant are possible treatments for liver cancer.

Prevention includes diet and exercise, managing conditions like diabetes, and avoiding risky behaviors like heavy alcohol use and sharing needles. You should also talk to your doctor about what hepatitis vaccines and screenings are right for you.