

BROADCAST- Pope Leo's lung cancer highlights importance of knowing your risk and getting screened

ANCHOR LEAD IN:

POPE LEO THE FOURTEENTH'S LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSIS IS SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DETECTION.

DR. PRIYA ANDANAMALA (**en-DONNA-MAHL-uh**) A MEDICAL ONCOLOGIST AT OSF HEALTHCARE CANCER INSTITUTE IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS SAYS PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK SHOULD TALK WITH THEIR DOCTOR ABOUT SCREENING — EVEN IF THEY FEEL HEALTHY.

SOT-DR. PRIYA ANDANAMALA

“AS SAD AS THE NEWS IS, I THINK IT ENCOURAGES ALL OF OUR PATIENTS THAT ARE UNDER A HIGH RISK CATEGORY TO GET THAT SCREENING BECAUSE IF WE ARE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THESE LESIONS AT AN EARLY STAGE, WE ARE ABLE TO CURE MOST PATIENTS. WE’RE ABLE TO CURE THEM WITH SURGERY AND CHEMOTHERAPY, IMMUNOTHERAPY AND TARGETED THERAPY.” (:23)

DOCTORS SAY LUNG CANCER OFTEN DOES NOT CAUSE SYMPTOMS IN ITS EARLY STAGES. FINDING IT BEFORE IT SPREADS CAN IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT.

SMOKING IS A MAJOR RISK FACTOR, BUT RADON, SECONDHAND SMOKE, WORKPLACE EXPOSURES AND FAMILY HISTORY CAN ALSO INCREASE A PERSON’S RISK.

FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY, ANNUAL LOW-DOSE C-T SCANS ARE THE STANDARD SCREENING METHOD BUT A SIMPLE BLOOD TEST IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO DETERMINE IF A SCAN IS NEEDED. DOCTORS ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO TALK WITH THEIR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER ABOUT THEIR RISK AND WHETHER SCREENING IS RIGHT FOR THEM.

ANCHOR TAG: YOU CAN ALSO GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR A LINK TO ASSESS WHETHER YOU’RE A CANDIDATE FOR LUNG CANCER SCREENING. (HERE IS THE LINK: [TAKE THIS SHORT ASSESSMENT](#))