

Shingles treatment continues to evolve

New research shows promise in preventing eye complications

SOT

Dr. Fred Burke

OSF HealthCare emergency department physician

"That virus will lie dormant in the nerve cells of the body. For some unknown reason, it gets activated later in life. Generally, that's in people 50 and over. You'll get a localized blistering rash. It's painful. It can last for three to five weeks. We treat it with antiviral medication." (:17)

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"If the rash has already crusted over, the antiviral medication won't be effective. You can treat the pain, but you have to just ride it out."

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"We treat that with antiviral medication. We consult an ophthalmologist because the person may also need steroids. It's good to treat this quickly because it can lead to vision loss." (:15)

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"It's the same virus. So if you catch it from someone [as an adult], you'll probably get chickenpox first. And you could get shingles later." (:10)