

## **COVID and its Effects on the Heart (Interview Transcripts)**

**Chadi Nouneh, M.D., Cardiology Medical Director, OSF HealthCare**

“We are learning that some patients have long-term pulmonary and lung effects which can cause some arrhythmia on top of it, which can last as an atrial fibrillation, an atrial flutter – which needed to be treated. Anything happening in the body can manifest as a cardiovascular problem, so we’re watching, we’re learning, we’re treating, we’re monitoring.” (:24)

**Chadi Nouneh, M.D., Cardiology Medical Director, OSF HealthCare**

“Cardiac arrhythmia is very common – and we do see it especially in acute respiratory illness. When the patient has a lung problem, we start seeing from atrial fibrillation to atrial flutter to ventricular arrhythmia to extra heartbeat to a pause. We saw a long range of atrial arrhythmia and ventricular arrhythmia caused by the COVID virus infection itself.” (:28)

**Chadi Nouneh, M.D., Cardiology Medical Director, OSF HealthCare**

“Now it’s becoming routine to see a patient tell me ‘I had COVID in March, April, June, July’ and the observation we’ve seen – me and others around the country – there is something called pericarditis or myocarditis which is inflammation of the heart muscle and the membrane around the heart.” (:23)

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“It can affect all ages, but the more we see, it’s the older patients, patients with chronic disease such as hypertension, diabetes, or chronic heart failure – diastolic or systolic. I have seen it in a few younger patients with the effects of pericarditis on the heart. I see a couple patients who had COVID and they still have some symptoms of it.” (:28)

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“Every patient with heart disease – they are at high risk. This means that if somebody has congestive heart failure or weak heart or blocked artery or cardiac arrhythmia and we add the COVID virus, the outcome is definitely worse than the healthy person with the COVID disease.” (:23)