

Soundbite Script – The Story about Myeloma

Katie McGrail, Physician Assistant, OSF HealthCare

“Multiple Myeloma is a blood cancer and it affects the plasma cells, which is a type of white blood cell so it basically lowers someone’s ability to fight an infection. Even though it’s the second most common blood cancer, it’s actually only one to two percent of blood cancers diagnosed yearly.”

Katie McGrail, Physician Assistant, OSF HealthCare

“Some increased risk factors for myeloma would be exposure to Agent Orange, increased body mass, if you’re an African American that increases your risk, if you’re a male it increases your risk, if you’ve been diagnosed with monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance you’re at an increased risk of that turning into multiple myeloma down the road, as well as patients who have a first degree relative with multiple myeloma, there’s actually a 3.7 fold increase for them to develop it in their life.”

Katie McGrail, Physician Assistant, OSF HealthCare

“Fatigue, weakness, new bone pain, things that you can’t really explain to why you’re feeling like this is would be something to see your doctor about.”

Katie McGrail, Physician Assistant, OSF HealthCare

“There’s no cure for it, unfortunately, but we’ve made leaps and bounds as far as treatment options and having patients living longer. It’s something, especially during a pandemic, if you really aren’t feeling well you need to see your doctor because it’s back to where it’s safe to come to hospitals and see your physician. It’s something you don’t want to put off, because the longer you put off multiple myeloma you might have more bone lesions and more fractures in the future and that can cause significant pain and other issues.”