Video-Audio Clips-Transcript

Cancer Navigator Jill Emmons, OSF HealthCare in Alton, Illinois

Lung cancer is so deadly because symptoms don't occur until it has already advanced. Knowing your risk and doing an online assessment can help.

"If lung cancer is caught early, it is definitely more treatable. Sometimes patients don't come to us until they are already experiencing symptoms, and by that time, it can be at a later stage and metastasized and gone to other organs." (:21)

People who already have chronic lung disease are at risk. Emmons says don't ignore chronic symptoms.

"They could have chronic bronchitis, or if they get repeated pneumonia several times, shortness of breath, wheezing, cough, any of those symptoms, the patient should check with their physician (or provider) and maybe the physician can find out what's going on." (:17)

Cost should not prevent anyone from getting evaluated, having a CT scan, or getting treatment if necessary.

"We do have financial navigators who will help you through that process – check with insurance to see if insurance is going to cover it. If it's self-pay, there are payment plans, just anything we can do to help ease that burden on you, because if you do meet the criteria (for a scan) you need to have it done." (:22)

The best way to lower your risk of getting lung cancer is to quit smoking.

"If you need any kind of resources, please check with your primary care provider. We have several resources on how to help you quit smoking." (:11)