

Soundbite Script – Saving Lives One Screening at a Time

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“The findings did show that, so far, lung cancer screening works. With the people who are at risk we’re finding cancers that would not otherwise have been found, and we’re finding them at an early stage. As with many other cancers, treatment for lung cancer at an early stage has a much better prognosis so if you can treat lung cancer at stage 1 or 2 versus 3 or 4, you’re going to save a lot more lives.”

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“The biggest challenge of lung cancer is, by the time it becomes symptomatic, it’s typically stage 3 or 4. At stage 3 your cure rate is 30% at best and at stage 4 your cure rate is 0.”

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“The thought was it’s such a common cancer, such a deadly cancer, what can we do, there’s something we can do to try and improve the chances people have, so that’s where it started. Chest x-rays were not accurate enough to show small masses and the concern about CT scans was, are we subjecting people to unnecessary tests or too much radiation? So that’s where it all started but over time we’ve developed something that’s effective but also safe for patients.”

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“If you find yourself between the ages of 50 and 80 with a 20-pack per year history of smoking or you currently smoke and it’s been that long, then I think it’s worth having a conversation with your primary care provider and let them know you’re interested in having a lung cancer screening CT scan done.”

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmad, Radiation Oncologist, OSF HealthCare

“Over time I feel like the rates will go up and that means we’re going to catch a lot more lung cancer at an earlier stage.”