Experts Draw From Personal Cancer Diagnoses to Urge Others to Resume Screenings After COVID-19

A dramatic decrease in cancer screenings during pandemic could cost thousands of lives

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute

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The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE

AS MORE AMERICANS ARE VACCINATED FOR COVID-19, DOCTORS ARE URGING YOU TO CATCH UP ON THE APPOINTMENTS THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.

THE DETAILS ARE COMING UP.

ANCHOR LEAD

AS THE WORLD BEGINS TO LOOK TOWARD RECOVERY, CANCER EXPERTS ARE BRACING FOR A CONSEQUENCE OF THE PANDEMIC THAT COULD IMPACT THOUSANDS OF LIVES.

EXPERTS ESTIMATE DELAYS IN CANCER SCREENINGS OVER THE PAST YEAR COULD ACCOUNT FOR TEN THOUSAND DEATHS OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS FROM BREAST CANCER AND COLORECTAL CANCERS ALONE.

BARB CONSIGLIO HAS MORE ON HOW CANCER EXPERTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THEIR OWN DIAGNOSES ARE ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO CATCH UP ON MISSED APPOINTMENTS.

(PACKAGE START) -

CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute :00 - :03

Shots of Paskett working

(Nats - Sound) :02

ELECTRA PASKETT HAS SPENT HER CAREER ADVOCATING FOR CANCER PREVENTION, ESPECIALLY IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, WHERE THE GAP IN SCREENINGS HAS BEEN MADE EVEN WORSE FOR THOSE HIT HARD BY THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19. :12

CG: Electra Paskett. PhD

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute

Shots of Paskett in home garden

"For them, going to get a mammogram, pap test or a colon screening test is not the first thing on their list. They're worried about other things. For example, food, or their job, or childcare." :13

PASKETT'S OWN BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS GIVES HER A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE WHEN EXPLAINING THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR SCREENINGS. :05

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"I understand what it's like to be told, 'You have cancer." :05 Electra Paskett (CG'd earlier AS DOES SURGEON RAPHAEL POLLOCK, Shots of Dr. Pollock working DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER — JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND SOLOVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.:07 CG: Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD "The fact that I'm willing to talk to my patients about my The Ohio State University Comprehensive own disease situation has brought me that much closer to Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer the people who have trusted me with their care.":10 Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute SCREENINGS DRAMATICALLY DECREASED DURING THE PANDEMIC1, WHICH IS LIKELY TO LEAD Shots of mammogram TO A SPIKE IN LATER STAGE DIAGNOSES IN THE COMING YEARS. EXPERTS URGE THOSE WHO HAVE PUT OFF THEIR SCREENINGS TO GET CAUGHT UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. :10 "Don't worry about being late. The most important thing Electra Paskett (CG'd earlier) is that you go and get screened. It can save your life." :06 NANCY RUDD, WHO WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER IN THE THICK OF THE PANDEMIC Shots of Nancy at home WITH A SCREENING MAMMOGRAM, ECHOES THIS MESSAGE.:04 "Finding my breast cancer at an early stage, it had not **CG: Nancy Rudd** metastasized elsewhere, had not gone to the lymph Treated for stage 1 breast cancer nodes, I was very fortunate.":09 AND EVEN AS COVID FEARS LINGER, NANCY HOPES MORE PEOPLE WILL HAVE ENOUGH Shots of Nancy at home CONFIDENCE IN THE SAFETY OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO BE PROACTIVE ABOUT THEIR HEALTH.:07 "I think we need to take those concerns seriously and Nancy Rudd (CG'd earlier address them but we can't minimize what we need to do for our own self care.":07 AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY Shots of mammogram COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER — JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND SOLOVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :05 (PACKAGE END) --EXPERTS STRESS THAT HEALTHCARE FACILITIES **ANCHOR TAG** ARE SOME OF THE SAFEST PUBLIC PLACES THAT EXIST, TAKING EXTENSIVE PRECAUTIONS TO

ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY.

THE RISKS OF GOING TO THE HOSPITAL OR
DOCTOR'S OFFICE ARE EXTREMELY LOW, WHILE
THE VALUE OF CATCHING CANCERS AS EARLY AS
POSSIBLE IS IMMEASURABLE AND UNDOUBTEDLY

SOCIAL MEDIA

SAVES LIVES.

Share it! Suggested tweet:

With a dramatic drop in cancer screenings during the pandemic, experts at <u>@OSUCCC_James</u> are drawing from their own diagnoses to encourage others to get caught up on the appointments that could save their life. https://bit.ly/3t0H5aK

Suggested post:

Missed cancer screenings during the pandemic could affect thousands of lives and lead to a surge in advanced-stage diagnoses. Experts at OSUCCC-James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute are drawing from their own experiences with cancer to stress the importance of early detection and encourage everyone to get caught up on potentially life saving appointments. https://bit.ly/3t0H5aK

EXTRA BITES

Pollock says screening is especially important for those with risk factors:

"Certainly patients or individuals who may have a familial or other type of predisposition, lifestyle choices that predispose them to developing cancer are going to be benefited by participating in the screening in an appropriately timely manner." :21

CG: Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute Pollock says healthcare facilities are very safe: "Within the bounds of what is humanly possible, the James Cancer Hospital and the Wexner Medical Center itself was among the very, very safest places for anyone

to be.":14

Pollock says earlier cancer detection leads to better outcomes: "If you look at the stage for stage pickup for certain types of cancers because of the delay in screening, patients were diagnosed at a more advanced stage than they might have been had they been able to participate in screening, identify a tumor problem, and then begin therapy earlier." :22

CG: Electra Paskett, PhD

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute

Paskett says she postponed cancer screenings during the pandemic:

"I actually did procrastinate a screening test. I needed to get a pancreatic cancer screening because that was the fourth cancer my mother had, and she died from it. So I am on a surveillance for pancreatic cancer. And I put that off for about six months before I felt comfortable to go in." :20

Paskett says her research focuses on cancer prevention: "The area of my research focuses is on developing and testing ways to get people to do the things they need to do to reduce their risk for developing, or dying, from cancer.":12

Paskett explains how her team helps underserved communities overcome barriers to care:

"We work with them to understand the barriers that they have to receiving care, even in the pandemic. And then we help resolve those issues so that they can then go and get their screenings, including finding ways to pay." :14

Nancy says she felt very safe going to get her mammogram: "I felt very safe because I knew that the healthcare professionals, my own internist from my annual physical and the mammogram technicians, and then going on to the additional screenings, I knew that they would take precautions.":14

CG: Nancy Rudd Treated for stage 1 breast cancer

Nancy says she was fortunate that her cancer was diagnosed in stage 1:

"My cancer was diagnosed at Stage 1, so a very early stage. And it had not metastasized to any lymph nodes, so I was really very lucky." :13

Nancy says she advocates cancer screenings to others: "I made sure that all of my friends and students and so on, if they are of age or to just be aware of it, that they need to look for anything and make sure they have that initial screening. I communicated it far and wide." :15

References

¹COVID-19 and cancer, **Science, Volume 368, Issue 6497, June 19, 2020.** Online: https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6497/1290

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