

J47 New Esophageal Cancer Treatment

November 2009

Intro: Cancer of the esophagus is like many other types of cancer. It's often curable if caught early. Treatment for esophagus cancer, even in the early stage, has traditionally been surgery -- removal of the entire esophagus. But now, doctors at Mayo Clinic are using minimally invasive endoscopies to treat early cancers. Patients have the procedure and go home the very same day.

Video

Total running time 1:30

Standup

CG :19 to :27

Vivien Williams

Reporting

Audio

LEE PORTER KNOWS THAT HIS FAVORITE CHOCOLATE CANDIES CAN SEND HIM RUNNING FOR THE ANTACIDS IF HE EATS THEM AT THE WRONG TIME.

“CHOCOLATE IS REALLY BAD ON YOUR HEARTBURN YOU IF YOU EAT IT BEFORE YOU GO TO BED.”

YEARS AND YEARS OF CHRONIC ACID REFLUX NOT ONLY CAUSED PAIN, BUT IT MAY HAVE ALSO CAUSED ESOPHAGEAL CANCER.

AND UNTIL RECENTLY THAT MEANT MAJOR SURGERY – REMOVAL OF THE ENTIRE ESOPHAGUS AND THE CREATION OF A NEW ONE BY ATTACHING THE

CG :27 to :41

Michael Wallace, M.D.

Mayo Clinic

STOMACH TO THE THROAT.

“WHAT’S REALLY CHANGED
DRAMATICALLY IN THE LAST FEW
YEARS IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF
WAYS TO TREAT THESE EARLY
CANCERS THROUGH ENDOSCOPIC
PROCEDURES WITHOUT SURGERY,
WITHOUT MAKING INCISIONS,
THROUGH A FLEXIBLE FIBER OPTIC
ENDOSCOPE.”

DURING THE PROCEDURE DR.
MICHAEL WALLACE LOWERS AN
ENDOSCOPE INTO THE
ESOPHAGUS TO THE SITE OF THE
CANCER.

“AT THE LOWER END OF THE
ESOPHAGUS WE SEE THIS
IRREGULAR TISSUE. THIS IS
ACTUALLY THE VERY EARLY FORM
OF ESOPHAGEAL CANCER.”

THE SCOPE IS EQUIPPED WITH
TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN REMOVE

THE CANCER AND LEAVE HEALTHY
TISSUE BEHIND. TO LEE PORTER,
THIS OPTION DEFINITELY BEATS
THE ALTERNATIVE.

CG 1:07 to 1:15

Lee Porter

Had esophageal cancer

“OH MY GOODESS GRACIOUS,
THERE IS NO COMPARISON TO
HAVING YOUR WHOLE
ESOPHAGUS REMOVED.”

JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER LEE’S
PROCEDURE, HE WAS BACK TO
NORMAL -- ABLE TO EAT PRETTY
MUCH ANYTHING. INCLUDING
CHOCOLATE CANDY.

“I PROBABLY SHOULDN’T EAT AS
MUCH AS I DO, BUT IT’S GOOD.”
FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I’M VIVIEN
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Lee Porter has follow up endoscopies every few months to be sure he remains cancer free. He also continues to take medication for acid reflux. And again, this procedure is only for early stage cancers. Patients who have more advanced disease will likely have to undergo surgery and perhaps chemotherapy and radiation. For more information visit our website at...**[STATIONS: Per the licensing agreement, please provide a link from your station's website to <http://www.mayoclinic.org> or voice tag "mayoclinic.org" for more information.]**