Hnf052312

Health newsfeed for Wednesday, May 23, 2012

HEADLINE: THYROID CANCER

ANCHOR LEAD: WHAT'S THE BEST TREATMENT FOR THYROID CANCER? ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

Thyroid cancer is very common, and usually very treatable. Now a study in the New England Journal of Medicine describes a strategy for treating the cancer but also improving long term results. William Nelson, director of the Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, explains.

NELSON: Everyone, thyroid cancer-wise, did extremely well, but with the thyroid cell stimulation, the thyrotropin administration, and the lower dose of radioactive iodine, people seemed to have a little bit less salivary gland and lacrimal gland dysfunction. That's the production of saliva and of tears, so it does look like this lower administration and the giving of the thyroid stimulating hormone may be a better treatment, not just to get the best cancer result but to get the best long term survivorship result. :31

Nelson says this study illustrates a trend in cancer treatment to minimize side effects and consequences of treatment, as many cancers can now be considered chronic diseases. At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.