Hnf031813

Health newsfeed for Monday, March 18, 2013

**HEADLINE: MULTIDISCIPLINARY** 

ANCHOR LEAD: OUTCOMES MAY BE BETTER WHEN MANY MEDICAL SPECIALITIES

ARE INVOLVED IN SOME PATIENT CARE, ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

Surgeons are most likely to operate, medical oncologists to recommend chemotherapy, and radiation oncologists to chose radiation when it comes to complex cancer care, a recent study in JAMA Surgery illustrates. Julie Freischlag, editor of the journal and director of surgery at Johns Hopkins, says that's why multidisciplinary clinics may make the most sense.

FREISCHLAG: We find that the multidisciplinary groups are really great for those patients that sit in the middle, because there are some patients where it's very clear they need surgery, and there's some where there's really nothing to be done, but those in the middle are the ones I really think benefit most from the multidisciplinary and we find that's where the treatment plan really gets more positive. About forty percent we change what we think they have just by us assessing them, so those kinds of second opinions are really invaluable. :25

At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.