

WEBVTT

00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:02.226 Funding for Yale Cancer Answers is

NOTE Confidence: 0.815263929090909

00:00:02.226 --> 00:00:04.330 provided by Smilow Cancer Hospital.

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:06.830 --> 00:00:09.078 Welcome to Yale Cancer Answers

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:09.078 --> 00:00:10.866 with Doctor Anees Chagpar.

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:10.870 --> 00:00:12.358 Yale Cancer Answers features

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:12.358 --> 00:00:14.138 the latest information on cancer

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:14.138 --> 00:00:15.989 care by welcoming oncologists and

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:15.989 --> 00:00:18.155 specialists who are on the forefront

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:18.155 --> 00:00:20.078 of the battle to fight cancer.

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:20.080 --> 00:00:21.450 This week, it's a conversation

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:21.450 --> 00:00:23.448 about the care of veterans with

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:23.448 --> 00:00:25.130 cancer with Doctor Michal Rose.

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:25.130 --> 00:00:27.272 Dr. Rose is a professor of medicine

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:27.272 --> 00:00:29.432 and director of the West Haven

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:29.432 --> 00:00:31.008 VA Comprehensive Cancer Center,

NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:31.010 --> 00:00:32.882 and Doctor Chagpar is a professor
NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:32.882 --> 00:00:34.493 of surgical oncology at the
NOTE Confidence: 0.89075947

00:00:34.493 --> 00:00:35.717 Yale School of Medicine.
NOTE Confidence: 0.896558222608696

00:00:36.770 --> 00:00:38.702 So Michal, maybe we can start off
NOTE Confidence: 0.896558222608696

00:00:38.702 --> 00:00:40.914 by you telling us a little bit more
NOTE Confidence: 0.896558222608696

00:00:40.914 --> 00:00:42.860 about yourself and what it is you do.
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:00:42.950 --> 00:00:45.866 Sure. I'm originally from Israel.
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:00:45.870 --> 00:00:47.872 That's where I went to medical school
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:00:47.872 --> 00:00:50.509 and I did my residency training there.
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:00:50.510 --> 00:00:53.252 I came to the United States in 1993,
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:00:53.252 --> 00:00:55.424 so it's been almost 30 years.
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:00:55.430 --> 00:00:57.390 And I did my training in hematology,
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:00:57.390 --> 00:00:59.042 oncology here at Yale.
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:00:59.042 --> 00:01:00.694 And during that training,
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:00.700 --> 00:01:03.373 I really fell in love with the VA hospital,
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:03.380 --> 00:01:05.516 the veterans and the whole system.

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:05.520 --> 00:01:08.131 So I was thrilled when the opportunity

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:08.131 --> 00:01:11.331 came up to take a job there in 1999,

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:11.331 --> 00:01:14.637 and I've been there ever since.

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:14.640 --> 00:01:16.554 I rose through the academic ranks

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:16.554 --> 00:01:18.717 to become a full professor in

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:18.717 --> 00:01:20.767 the section of medical oncology,

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:20.770 --> 00:01:23.674 and I've been section Chief of

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:23.674 --> 00:01:28.290 Hematology oncology at the VA since 2005.

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:28.290 --> 00:01:30.066 So while my areas of interest

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:30.066 --> 00:01:32.186 really have focused on, of course,

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:32.186 --> 00:01:34.994 the cancers that are seen

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:34.994 --> 00:01:36.840 commonly in veterans,

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:36.840 --> 00:01:39.808 I'm also very interested in systems of care,

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:39.810 --> 00:01:42.210 so practicing in the VA system

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:42.210 --> 00:01:44.450 has really made me interested

NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:44.450 --> 00:01:47.240 in efficient use of resources,
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:47.240 --> 00:01:48.464 care coordination,
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:48.464 --> 00:01:51.524 and really streamlining care for
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:51.524 --> 00:01:54.672 people with cancer and complex
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:54.672 --> 00:01:57.477 medical and psychosocial needs which
NOTE Confidence: 0.886004508333333

00:01:57.477 --> 00:01:59.619 are very common in our population.
NOTE Confidence: 0.889242604285714

00:02:00.370 --> 00:02:01.938 So there's a few things that
NOTE Confidence: 0.889242604285714

00:02:01.940 --> 00:02:03.484 I want to pick up on on that.
NOTE Confidence: 0.889242604285714

00:02:03.490 --> 00:02:06.100 So the first is, can you tell us a little
NOTE Confidence: 0.889242604285714

00:02:06.172 --> 00:02:09.084 bit more about what are the cancers that
NOTE Confidence: 0.889242604285714

00:02:09.084 --> 00:02:11.089 are particularly common in veterans?
NOTE Confidence: 0.889242604285714

00:02:11.090 --> 00:02:13.141 And are they different from those that
NOTE Confidence: 0.889242604285714

00:02:13.141 --> 00:02:15.598 are common in the rest of the population?
NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:16.170 --> 00:02:18.570 Well, as I'm sure you know,
NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:18.570 --> 00:02:21.370 the majority of veterans are still men,
NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:21.370 --> 00:02:23.554 although we are seeing an increase

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:23.554 --> 00:02:25.780 in women veterans as more and

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:25.780 --> 00:02:27.868 more women serve in the military.

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:27.870 --> 00:02:30.705 But because our population is mainly men,

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:30.710 --> 00:02:34.046 we see cancers that are common in men,

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:34.050 --> 00:02:36.050 which are mainly prostate

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:36.050 --> 00:02:38.050 cancer and lung cancers.

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:38.050 --> 00:02:42.306 We also see cancers of the bladder,

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:42.310 --> 00:02:43.526 skin, Melanoma,

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:43.526 --> 00:02:46.566 kidney cancer and liver cancers,

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:46.570 --> 00:02:48.958 and those are probably

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:48.958 --> 00:02:51.346 our most common cancers.

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:51.350 --> 00:02:56.810 I will say that the VA is a leader in

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:56.810 --> 00:02:59.430 cancer screenings and early detection.

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:02:59.430 --> 00:03:00.798 So as a result,

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:03:00.798 --> 00:03:02.850 we really diagnose many of these

NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:03:02.925 --> 00:03:05.349 cancers at an early curable stage,
NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:03:05.350 --> 00:03:06.421 which is wonderful.
NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:03:06.421 --> 00:03:08.920 But of course the patients that are
NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:03:08.992 --> 00:03:10.978 referred to us in medical oncology
NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:03:10.978 --> 00:03:13.564 tend to have the more advanced stages
NOTE Confidence: 0.865621221666667

00:03:13.564 --> 00:03:15.946 of these cancers that I mentioned.
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:16.720 --> 00:03:19.060 So a few things,
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:19.060 --> 00:03:21.192 are there particular cancers
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:21.192 --> 00:03:24.390 that we see more commonly after
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:24.479 --> 00:03:28.049 veterans have been exposed to either
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:28.049 --> 00:03:30.429 chemical warfare or radiation?
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:30.430 --> 00:03:32.986 I mean, we think about things
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:32.986 --> 00:03:35.280 like Agent Orange and so on.
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:35.280 --> 00:03:37.400 Can you talk a little bit about
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:37.400 --> 00:03:39.905 whether we're seeing increases in
NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692

00:03:39.905 --> 00:03:41.909 particular cancers among veterans

NOTE Confidence: 0.696841692
00:03:41.909 --> 00:03:43.860 based on their occupation?
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:03:44.460 --> 00:03:46.920 Absolutely, we're
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:03:46.920 --> 00:03:49.595 learning more and more that exposures
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:03:49.595 --> 00:03:52.130 that our veterans sustained
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:03:52.130 --> 00:03:54.880 during their military service really
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:03:54.880 --> 00:03:58.697 has a huge impact on their health
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:03:58.700 --> 00:04:01.720 all throughout their life and
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:04:01.720 --> 00:04:04.990 that really does include cancers.
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:04:04.990 --> 00:04:08.056 You mentioned Agent Orange,
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:04:08.060 --> 00:04:10.755 which is a huge risk factor for
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:04:10.755 --> 00:04:13.253 cancer among the veterans of the
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:04:13.253 --> 00:04:16.179 Vietnam War and the Vietnam War era.
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:04:16.180 --> 00:04:18.845 And actually recently several new
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:04:18.845 --> 00:04:22.709 conditions have been added to the list
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666
00:04:22.709 --> 00:04:25.489 of Agent Orange related malignancies.
NOTE Confidence: 0.804824326666666

00:04:25.490 --> 00:04:27.362 So one of those which I'll
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:27.362 --> 00:04:29.190 mention is not a cancer,
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:29.190 --> 00:04:32.655 but it's a precancerous condition
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:32.655 --> 00:04:34.734 called monoclonal gammopathy
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:34.734 --> 00:04:37.370 of undetermined significance.
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:37.370 --> 00:04:41.150 Or people may have heard of the term mgus
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:41.150 --> 00:04:45.162 which is a precancerous condition which may
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:45.162 --> 00:04:49.026 lead to myeloma and other blood disorders.
00:04:50.104 --> 00:04:51.894 Lung cancer is very high
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:51.894 --> 00:04:53.590 up there on the list,
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:53.590 --> 00:04:55.018 and prostate cancer.
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:55.018 --> 00:04:59.520 So two of the most common cancers in veterans
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:04:59.520 --> 00:05:02.760 are related to Agent Orange exposure.
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:02.760 --> 00:05:05.076 The other thing I'll mention about
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:05.076 --> 00:05:07.956 Agent Orange is that the VA has
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:07.956 --> 00:05:09.895 recently recognized that it wasn't
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:09.895 --> 00:05:12.085 only the veterans that were in
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:12.085 --> 00:05:14.516 Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange,
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:14.520 --> 00:05:18.030 so Agent Orange was stored
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:18.030 --> 00:05:21.075 in multiple locations in the United States,
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:21.080 --> 00:05:23.315 for example, military bases in
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:23.315 --> 00:05:25.550 Florida and Maryland and others,
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:25.550 --> 00:05:27.490 and outside the United States,
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:27.490 --> 00:05:29.761 Canada, Cambodia, Thailand,
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:29.761 --> 00:05:32.789 Korea and other sites.
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:32.790 --> 00:05:35.520 And so the VA does recognize
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:35.520 --> 00:05:38.729 now that veterans who
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:38.730 --> 00:05:41.554 were exposed to Agent Orange may have just
NOTE Confidence: 0.8048243266666666

00:05:41.554 --> 00:05:44.300 served on those bases that I mentioned.
NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:05:45.570 --> 00:05:49.130 And one of the things that you
NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:05:49.130 --> 00:05:52.570 mentioned was that the VA has a
NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:05:52.570 --> 00:05:55.025 really robust program of screening.

NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:05:55.030 --> 00:05:56.910 So a couple of questions.

NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:05:56.910 --> 00:06:00.214 One, for the cancers that are most

NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:06:00.214 --> 00:06:02.450 commonly detected among veterans,

NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:06:02.450 --> 00:06:04.368 can you talk a little bit more

NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:06:04.368 --> 00:06:05.575 about the screening programs

NOTE Confidence: 0.849723821

00:06:05.575 --> 00:06:07.220 that are available to them?

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:09.600 --> 00:06:12.640 I think maybe I'll focus on lung cancer,

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:12.640 --> 00:06:15.480 although of course prostate cancer

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:15.480 --> 00:06:20.149 also is a cancer that we do screen for.

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:20.150 --> 00:06:22.299 We know that the screening for prostate

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:22.299 --> 00:06:25.087 cancer is a little bit more controversial,

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:25.090 --> 00:06:28.079 and in fact some of the important

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:28.079 --> 00:06:30.219 studies about screening for prostate

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:30.219 --> 00:06:32.956 cancer were done in the VA system.

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:32.960 --> 00:06:34.437 But when you look at lung cancer,

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:34.440 --> 00:06:37.793 that's one of the newest cancers
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:37.793 --> 00:06:41.350 that we now screen for and it
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:41.350 --> 00:06:43.082 turns out that it's
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:43.082 --> 00:06:45.247 actually quite complicated
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:45.247 --> 00:06:48.029 to screen for lung cancer because
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:48.030 --> 00:06:50.249 it's easy enough to do a quick
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:50.249 --> 00:06:52.490 cat scan in someone at risk,
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:52.490 --> 00:06:55.136 if they have smoked
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:55.136 --> 00:06:57.536 a certain amount of cigarettes
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:06:57.536 --> 00:07:00.236 within the last 15 years.
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:00.240 --> 00:07:03.088 But it turns out that you need a whole
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:03.088 --> 00:07:06.030 system of care to follow up on those
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:06.030 --> 00:07:07.413 cat scans.
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:07.413 --> 00:07:10.651 And that's where the VA really excels
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:10.651 --> 00:07:14.419 because it is such a system of care.
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:14.420 --> 00:07:16.796 And so the VA is a leader in

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:16.796 --> 00:07:18.319 screening for lung cancer.

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:18.320 --> 00:07:19.649 And in fact,

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:19.649 --> 00:07:22.307 there's a national program which

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:22.307 --> 00:07:26.631 we're participating in that is seeking

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:26.631 --> 00:07:30.716 to structure that system with

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:30.720 --> 00:07:34.200 templates and algorithms and

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:34.200 --> 00:07:36.188 make sure that people who do get

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:36.188 --> 00:07:38.269 screened come back for their follow-up

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:38.269 --> 00:07:40.219 tests and their follow-up screening.

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:40.220 --> 00:07:43.550 So that's really a very exciting

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:43.550 --> 00:07:47.864 field that I feel the VA has a lot

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:47.864 --> 00:07:50.192 to offer here in VA Connecticut.

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:50.192 --> 00:07:52.490 We were one of the first

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:52.490 --> 00:07:54.578 VA's one of the first sites in the

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:54.578 --> 00:07:56.776 country to screen for lung cancer and

NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:56.776 --> 00:07:59.022 we have already screened thousands and
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:07:59.022 --> 00:08:01.878 thousands of veterans and picked up
NOTE Confidence: 0.9037873125

00:08:01.880 --> 00:08:04.484 many lung cancers at an early stage.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:05.500 --> 00:08:08.158 For the screening for lung cancer,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:08.160 --> 00:08:10.840 you mentioned that Agent Orange
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:10.840 --> 00:08:13.520 would put veterans at risk,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:13.520 --> 00:08:16.019 but yet many of the screening protocols,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:16.020 --> 00:08:16.959 as you mentioned,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:16.959 --> 00:08:18.837 are really based on smoking history.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:18.840 --> 00:08:21.073 Is there an exception for people who
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:21.073 --> 00:08:23.244 don't meet the smoking threshold but
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:23.244 --> 00:08:25.918 may have been exposed to various agents
NOTE Confidence: 0.924482955

00:08:25.982 --> 00:08:28.047 that would also put them at risk?
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:28.830 --> 00:08:31.950 No, we're not there yet.
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:31.950 --> 00:08:35.006 I think that's a field of active research.
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:35.010 --> 00:08:36.820 How do you incorporate other

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:36.820 --> 00:08:38.630 risk factors for lung cancer?

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:38.630 --> 00:08:41.166 We know a lot about smoking,

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:41.170 --> 00:08:42.982 but like you mentioned,

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:42.982 --> 00:08:45.247 there's many other risk factors,

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:45.250 --> 00:08:49.426 but we don't have enough data yet to

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:49.426 --> 00:08:52.408 incorporate those exposures into our

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:52.410 --> 00:08:53.514 screening algorithms.

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:53.514 --> 00:08:58.639 So I would say the answer to that is no,

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:08:58.640 --> 00:09:01.765 although we definitely make exceptions

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:01.765 --> 00:09:05.590 when veterans have had a very

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:05.590 --> 00:09:08.565 heavy exposure to Agent Orange.

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:08.570 --> 00:09:11.230 Perhaps this is an opportunity also to

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:11.230 --> 00:09:14.181 mention some other exposures that we know

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:14.181 --> 00:09:18.270 veterans sustain in their military service.

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:18.270 --> 00:09:21.119 I don't know people have heard of

NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:21.120 --> 00:09:23.120 the problem with water
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:23.120 --> 00:09:25.120 contamination in Camp Lejeune.
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:25.120 --> 00:09:28.056 So Camp Lejeune is a Marine Corps base,
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:28.060 --> 00:09:31.768 as it's located in North Carolina.
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:31.770 --> 00:09:33.690 Sadly, between the years of
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:33.690 --> 00:09:36.504 the 1950s to the 1980s
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:36.504 --> 00:09:39.059 the drinking water there was
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:39.059 --> 00:09:40.669 contaminated by solvents,
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:40.670 --> 00:09:43.046 by benzene, and those are known
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:43.046 --> 00:09:44.630 risk factors for leukemias,
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:44.630 --> 00:09:46.530 for other bone marrow disorders,
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:46.530 --> 00:09:49.410 for lymphomas, bladder cancer, kidney cancer,
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:49.410 --> 00:09:52.896 liver cancer and probably lung cancer.
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:52.900 --> 00:09:56.428 And so that is another very important
NOTE Confidence: 0.80720096

00:09:56.430 --> 00:09:59.326 exposure that veterans sustain.
00:10:00.050 --> 00:10:01.700 I will mention one other
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:03.870 --> 00:10:05.592 exposure that has also been in the
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:05.592 --> 00:10:07.700 news and the VA is addressing more and
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:07.700 --> 00:10:09.851 more and that's the burn pits, right,
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:09.851 --> 00:10:14.019 the burn pits that were used to destroy
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:14.020 --> 00:10:16.612 basically garbage, military equipment
00:10:18.472 --> 00:10:22.108 in Afghanistan and Iraq.
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:22.110 --> 00:10:25.446 Caused huge amount of airborne toxins
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:25.446 --> 00:10:28.896 that our veterans who resided in
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:28.896 --> 00:10:32.286 those military bases were exposed to.
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:32.290 --> 00:10:34.936 And some of you may have heard
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:34.936 --> 00:10:36.520 of the PACT act
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:36.520 --> 00:10:39.145 which was signed by the President just
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:39.145 --> 00:10:41.718 last August and it really expanded
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:41.718 --> 00:10:44.008 healthcare and benefits for veterans
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:44.008 --> 00:10:46.738 exposed to many of these conditions,
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:46.740 --> 00:10:50.219 including with an emphasis on burn pits.
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:50.220 --> 00:10:52.150 And I do think the Pact act is going to
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:52.206 --> 00:10:53.814 really increase the number of veterans
NOTE Confidence: 0.831974543809524

00:10:53.814 --> 00:10:56.028 we take care of in the next few years.
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:10:57.360 --> 00:10:59.990 Do those benefits and those
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:10:59.990 --> 00:11:02.094 exposures affect veterans families
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:11:02.094 --> 00:11:05.297 as well as the veterans themselves?
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:11:05.300 --> 00:11:09.200 I mean, if we're thinking about
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:11:09.200 --> 00:11:12.350 exposures that may affect entire communities.
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:11:12.350 --> 00:11:15.470 One would imagine that anybody
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:11:15.470 --> 00:11:19.646 who's on that base, whether it's
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:11:19.646 --> 00:11:23.836 the veteran themselves or others,
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:11:23.840 --> 00:11:25.280 would equally be exposed.
NOTE Confidence: 0.890974541333333

00:11:25.280 --> 00:11:26.360 Is that right?
NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:27.930 --> 00:11:30.154 That is probably correct.
NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:30.154 --> 00:11:35.512 There is not really a recognition
NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:35.512 --> 00:11:39.859 that veterans families who develop cancer

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:39.860 --> 00:11:43.164 are these maybe secondary to those exposures?

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:43.170 --> 00:11:46.368 There is some recognition of other

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:46.368 --> 00:11:49.083 conditions like birth defects in

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:49.083 --> 00:11:51.543 children of veterans for example

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:51.543 --> 00:11:54.749 are recognized and that again is a

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:54.749 --> 00:11:57.114 whole field of very active research.

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:11:57.114 --> 00:12:01.020 I will also mention that the VA cares for

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:12:01.106 --> 00:12:04.676 veterans but rarely for veterans families.

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:12:04.680 --> 00:12:06.969 So in that regard it is different

NOTE Confidence: 0.777811952

00:12:06.969 --> 00:12:08.490 than other healthcare systems.

NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:09.180 --> 00:12:13.250 You know one of the things that you

NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:13.250 --> 00:12:16.148 mentioned and both in terms of

NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:16.148 --> 00:12:19.427 why you were attracted to the VA to

NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:19.427 --> 00:12:22.561 begin with as well as some of the

NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:22.561 --> 00:12:24.943 benefits that you've seen is really

NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:24.943 --> 00:12:27.448 the system that they have.
NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:27.450 --> 00:12:30.411 So can you talk a little bit more about
NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:30.411 --> 00:12:32.921 what are the components of the system
NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:32.921 --> 00:12:36.186 of the VA that you think makes it more
NOTE Confidence: 0.931306123

00:12:36.186 --> 00:12:39.238 robust in terms of screening and offerings?
00:12:42.740 --> 00:12:46.849 Well, I think there are several components.
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:12:46.850 --> 00:12:48.944 The VA is the largest healthcare
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:12:48.944 --> 00:12:50.340 system in the country.
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:12:50.340 --> 00:12:53.460 It is an integrated system.
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:12:53.460 --> 00:12:56.358 The VA has the oldest electronic
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:12:56.358 --> 00:12:59.100 medical record in the country,
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:12:59.100 --> 00:13:03.144 so way before most healthcare systems
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:03.144 --> 00:13:06.700 had an electronic medical record
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:06.700 --> 00:13:09.790 we were already using this
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:09.790 --> 00:13:12.020 program called Vista and that
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:12.020 --> 00:13:14.843 has a huge amount of benefits
NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:14.843 --> 00:13:17.825 so it unites the whole system.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:17.830 --> 00:13:20.054 So if a veteran gets care in Florida

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:20.054 --> 00:13:21.968 and then moves to Connecticut,

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:21.970 --> 00:13:26.234 I have no problem looking up that data.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:26.240 --> 00:13:27.653 So that helps.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:27.653 --> 00:13:30.008 It also enables streamlining a

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:30.008 --> 00:13:33.040 lot of tasks using reminders.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:33.040 --> 00:13:35.880 It enables data gathering

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:35.880 --> 00:13:38.609 and also a lot of it is

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:38.609 --> 00:13:41.801 when you have a veteran who

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:41.801 --> 00:13:45.646 is going to be in your system for life,

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:45.650 --> 00:13:48.410 there is a strong incentive to

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:48.410 --> 00:13:52.602 implement preventive care measures

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:52.602 --> 00:13:55.864 because you will as a healthcare

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:55.864 --> 00:13:58.070 system reap those benefits.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:13:58.070 --> 00:14:04.310 So I think that also helped

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:04.310 --> 00:14:06.590 push the field forward.

00:14:08.556 --> 00:14:10.950 Part of the mission of the VA

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:10.950 --> 00:14:12.630 is good care, right?

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:12.630 --> 00:14:15.210 Preventive care is good care.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:15.210 --> 00:14:17.429 The VA has had a huge emphasis

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:17.429 --> 00:14:20.330 on primary care, which is

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:20.330 --> 00:14:23.998 really the bedrock of preventive care of

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:23.998 --> 00:14:29.569 screening for cancers and other conditions.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:29.570 --> 00:14:32.670 And there's also, in the culture,

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:32.670 --> 00:14:35.302 we are very much

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:35.302 --> 00:14:37.810 encouraged to come up with

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:37.810 --> 00:14:40.562 efficiencies, with systems,

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:40.562 --> 00:14:43.314 with quality improvements,

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:43.320 --> 00:14:46.150 and that's a huge part of the culture at the VA.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:46.150 --> 00:14:49.146 So those are probably the main reasons.

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:49.150 --> 00:14:52.328 But when you look at studies about

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:52.328 --> 00:14:55.340 successive cancer screening, the VA is

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:55.340 --> 00:14:58.640 almost always sort of at

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:14:58.640 --> 00:15:01.819 the top of the list of percent

00:15:02.571 --> 00:15:03.322 veterans

NOTE Confidence: 0.91196379

00:15:03.322 --> 00:15:06.326 screened and guidelines followed.

NOTE Confidence: 0.892529441666667

00:15:07.290 --> 00:15:09.588 All really good points.

NOTE Confidence: 0.892529441666667

00:15:09.590 --> 00:15:11.742 We need to take a short break for

NOTE Confidence: 0.892529441666667

00:15:11.742 --> 00:15:13.654 a medical minute, but we'll pick

NOTE Confidence: 0.892529441666667

00:15:13.654 --> 00:15:15.670 up this story on the other side,

NOTE Confidence: 0.892529441666667

00:15:15.670 --> 00:15:17.938 learning more about caring for our

NOTE Confidence: 0.892529441666667

00:15:17.938 --> 00:15:19.820 veterans with Doctor Michal Rose.

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:20.410 --> 00:15:22.410 Funding for Yale Cancer Answers

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:22.410 --> 00:15:24.410 comes from Smilow Cancer Hospital,

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:24.410 --> 00:15:26.170 where their cancer genetics and

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:26.170 --> 00:15:27.226 prevention program includes

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:27.226 --> 00:15:29.294 a colon cancer genetics and

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:29.294 --> 00:15:31.038 prevention program that provides

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:31.038 --> 00:15:32.346 comprehensive risk assessment,

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:32.350 --> 00:15:35.050 education and screening.

NOTE Confidence: 0.783831673

00:15:35.050 --> 00:15:36.390 Smilowcancerhospital.org.

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:38.410 --> 00:15:40.288 Genetic testing can be useful for

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:40.288 --> 00:15:42.129 people with certain types of cancer

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:42.129 --> 00:15:43.984 that seem to run in their families.

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:43.990 --> 00:15:46.276 Genetic counseling is a process that

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:46.276 --> 00:15:48.256 includes collecting a detailed personal

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:48.256 --> 00:15:50.794 and family history, a risk assessment,

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:50.794 --> 00:15:53.930 and a discussion of genetic testing options.

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:53.930 --> 00:15:56.194 Only about 5 to 10% of all

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:56.194 --> 00:15:57.190 cancers are inherited,

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:57.190 --> 00:15:59.860 and genetic testing is not recommended

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:15:59.860 --> 00:16:02.481 for everyone. Individuals who have a

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:02.481 --> 00:16:04.791 personal and or family history that
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:04.791 --> 00:16:07.230 includes cancer at unusually early ages,
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:07.230 --> 00:16:07.908 multiple relatives
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:07.908 --> 00:16:09.942 on the same side of the
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:09.942 --> 00:16:11.670 family with the same cancer,
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:11.670 --> 00:16:13.540 more than one diagnosis of
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:13.540 --> 00:16:15.410 cancer in the same individual,
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:15.410 --> 00:16:16.212 rare cancers,
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:16.212 --> 00:16:19.019 or family history of a known altered
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:19.019 --> 00:16:21.530 cancer predisposing gene could be
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:21.530 --> 00:16:23.570 candidates for genetic testing.
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:23.570 --> 00:16:25.540 Resources for genetic counseling and
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:25.540 --> 00:16:27.510 testing are available at federally
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:27.569 --> 00:16:29.789 designated comprehensive cancer centers,
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:29.790 --> 00:16:31.630 such as Yale Cancer Center
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368

00:16:31.630 --> 00:16:33.470 and Smilow Cancer Hospital.

NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368
00:16:33.470 --> 00:16:35.862 More information is available
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368
00:16:35.862 --> 00:16:36.894 at yalecancercenter.org.
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368
00:16:36.894 --> 00:16:38.630 You're listening to Connecticut.
NOTE Confidence: 0.912632358947368
00:16:38.630 --> 00:16:39.480 Public radio.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:40.340 --> 00:16:42.560 Welcome back to Yale Cancer Answers.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:42.560 --> 00:16:44.240 This is doctor Anees Chagpar
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:44.240 --> 00:16:46.354 and I'm joined tonight by my guest,
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:46.360 --> 00:16:47.527 Doctor Michal Rose.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:47.527 --> 00:16:49.083 We're talking about care
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:49.083 --> 00:16:50.760 of veterans with cancer.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:50.760 --> 00:16:53.199 And right before the break,
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:53.199 --> 00:16:56.132 you were telling us about some of
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:56.132 --> 00:16:58.368 the advantages of the VA system
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:16:58.368 --> 00:17:00.660 that you think leads to
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446
00:17:00.660 --> 00:17:02.900 higher rates of screening and so on.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:02.900 --> 00:17:05.126 One of which is that it's
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:05.126 --> 00:17:06.239 an integrated system.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:06.240 --> 00:17:09.404 So all of the care is offered
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:09.404 --> 00:17:10.760 under one system.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:10.760 --> 00:17:13.124 There's the longest running
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:13.124 --> 00:17:15.488 electronic health record system
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:15.488 --> 00:17:18.485 which really is not just in one
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:18.485 --> 00:17:21.280 system but across the country.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:21.280 --> 00:17:23.752 So if a veteran is treated in
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:23.752 --> 00:17:25.960 Florida and moves to Connecticut,
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:25.960 --> 00:17:28.856 you can still view all of those records.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:28.860 --> 00:17:32.592 There's a strong incentive to really
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:32.592 --> 00:17:36.292 keep veterans healthy and a
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:36.292 --> 00:17:39.357 strong emphasis on preventative care.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:39.360 --> 00:17:41.388 And I think the other thing
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:41.388 --> 00:17:43.349 that we didn't mention is that

00:17:43.918 --> 00:17:46.590 all of the care is done under one roof.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:46.590 --> 00:17:48.470 Veterans in general get all
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:48.470 --> 00:17:50.670 of their care at the VA.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:50.670 --> 00:17:52.308 They don't kind of get part of
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:52.308 --> 00:17:54.455 their care at the VA and part of
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:54.455 --> 00:17:55.840 their care at different hospitals
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:55.897 --> 00:17:57.549 and different doctor's offices.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:57.550 --> 00:17:58.933 So, you know,
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:17:58.933 --> 00:18:01.699 as we think about the lessons
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:01.699 --> 00:18:03.968 learned from the VA system,
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:03.970 --> 00:18:06.814 I want to kind of pick your brain about
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:06.814 --> 00:18:09.217 what might be policy implications with
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:09.217 --> 00:18:12.888 regards to the rest of the healthcare system?
00:18:13.274 --> 00:18:15.194 You mentioned right before the
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:15.194 --> 00:18:18.059 break that in the VA system there
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:18.059 --> 00:18:20.139 is an emphasis on efficiency
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:20.140 --> 00:18:22.709 and best practice and yet we know
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:22.709 --> 00:18:25.402 that in general the US healthcare
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:25.402 --> 00:18:27.414 system lacks that efficiency.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:27.420 --> 00:18:29.980 We tend to be a very expensive system
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:29.980 --> 00:18:33.297 and we don't tend to get the same health
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:33.297 --> 00:18:35.291 outcomes that one would anticipate
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:35.291 --> 00:18:38.491 for the amount of money that we spend.
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:38.500 --> 00:18:42.904 Can you talk a little bit about what you
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:42.904 --> 00:18:47.572 think might be some things that
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:47.572 --> 00:18:48.700 the federal government
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:48.700 --> 00:18:50.204 might want to consider
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:50.210 --> 00:18:52.240 in terms of healthcare reform,
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:52.240 --> 00:18:54.370 which is always something that
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:54.370 --> 00:18:56.074 people are thinking about,
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:56.080 --> 00:18:58.085 especially when they think about
NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:18:58.085 --> 00:19:01.119 how we can cut the deficit and,

NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:19:01.120 --> 00:19:02.275 you know, improve,

NOTE Confidence: 0.83877446

00:19:02.275 --> 00:19:04.585 healthcare at the same time.

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:05.360 --> 00:19:07.754 Yes. Well, thank you for that question.

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:07.760 --> 00:19:10.118 I don't know if I have all the answers,

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:10.120 --> 00:19:14.088 but after working in the VA system for

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:14.088 --> 00:19:18.162 more than 20 years and of course being very

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:18.162 --> 00:19:20.619 aware of what happens in other systems,

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:20.620 --> 00:19:22.556 there are some obvious

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:22.556 --> 00:19:24.976 improvements that we could make.

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:24.980 --> 00:19:27.605 And a lot of them have been

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:27.605 --> 00:19:29.633 recognized and are happening maybe

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:29.633 --> 00:19:32.489 not as fast as we would like.

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:32.490 --> 00:19:34.488 For example, the electronic medical record

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:34.488 --> 00:19:36.868 of course is now adopted and pretty

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:36.868 --> 00:19:39.164 much I think every healthcare system in

NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:39.221 --> 00:19:41.369 the country and there's a requirement,
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:41.370 --> 00:19:43.692 I think a federal requirement that
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:43.692 --> 00:19:46.070 these systems talk to each other,
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:46.070 --> 00:19:50.093 so that more and more we are able to
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:50.100 --> 00:19:53.322 see what's happening to our patients
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:53.322 --> 00:19:54.933 in other systems.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:54.940 --> 00:19:58.312 So that is happening and hopefully
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:19:58.312 --> 00:20:01.899 will continue to improve and that
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:20:01.899 --> 00:20:04.375 process should be streamlined.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:20:04.380 --> 00:20:07.068 The emphasis on primary care and
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:20:07.068 --> 00:20:09.822 preventive care is very important
00:20:12.000 --> 00:20:13.740 but that is a complicated one.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:20:13.740 --> 00:20:16.740 We have a shortage of primary
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:20:16.740 --> 00:20:20.260 care doctors and nurse
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:20:20.260 --> 00:20:21.640 Practitioners and PFAS,
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:20:21.640 --> 00:20:22.560 et cetera.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:20:22.560 --> 00:20:24.583 That is a field that we should expand.
00:20:25.450 --> 00:20:27.886 These amazing practitioners should
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:27.886 --> 00:20:31.540 be rewarded for their hard work
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:31.633 --> 00:20:33.574 and they should be supported.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:33.574 --> 00:20:36.070 The other thing is to invest
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:36.155 --> 00:20:37.928 in supportive services.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:37.930 --> 00:20:42.484 the VA has a huge number of social workers,
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:42.490 --> 00:20:44.276 for example,
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:44.276 --> 00:20:47.848 those incredibly valuable resources.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:47.850 --> 00:20:51.098 The VA offers travel assistance to veterans.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:51.100 --> 00:20:52.540 That's very important because
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:52.540 --> 00:20:54.340 often that is the barrier.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:54.340 --> 00:20:56.932 People can't get to their appointments
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:20:56.932 --> 00:21:00.204 and the VA does recognize that and
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:21:00.204 --> 00:21:03.132 has every hospital has a travel
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298
00:21:03.132 --> 00:21:05.580 department and that is a benefit
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:05.580 --> 00:21:07.460 for many of the veterans.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:07.460 --> 00:21:09.688 Another big thing is drug cost, right?
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:09.688 --> 00:21:12.542 So the VA covers drug costs.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:12.542 --> 00:21:15.197 Veterans get pretty much all
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:15.197 --> 00:21:17.355 their drugs free or cheap.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:17.355 --> 00:21:18.815 So they take them.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:18.820 --> 00:21:21.977 If a patient can't afford their medication,
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:21.980 --> 00:21:24.098 they're not going to take them.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:24.100 --> 00:21:26.455 And then the consequences are
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:26.455 --> 00:21:29.974 bad for the patient and of course
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:29.974 --> 00:21:32.110 for the healthcare system.
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:32.110 --> 00:21:34.665 So that's another huge thing that I
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:34.665 --> 00:21:38.316 know we are all aware of the cost of
NOTE Confidence: 0.87191298

00:21:38.316 --> 00:21:41.290 drugs and their availability to our patients.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:21:41.520 --> 00:21:46.038 Taking each of those factors
00:21:47.928 --> 00:21:49.845 when you think about primary
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:21:49.845 --> 00:21:52.870 care and I agree with you,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:21:52.870 --> 00:21:58.634 having a primary care as a gatekeeper or a
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:21:58.634 --> 00:22:02.220 Segway to various specialists often is very
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:02.220 --> 00:22:05.628 efficient as opposed to having
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:05.628 --> 00:22:07.954 chest pain, going to a cardiologist,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:07.954 --> 00:22:10.628 having them tell you no it's not your heart,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:10.630 --> 00:22:13.612 and then going to a pulmonologist and
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:13.612 --> 00:22:16.614 them telling you no, it's not your lungs.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:16.614 --> 00:22:18.720 And then going to a gastroenterologist
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:18.783 --> 00:22:20.445 and having them tell you no,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:20.450 --> 00:22:22.750 it's not your GI system,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:22.750 --> 00:22:25.670 only to find out later that it might
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:25.670 --> 00:22:28.150 have been related to something
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:28.150 --> 00:22:31.150 you know, extraneous.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:31.150 --> 00:22:33.418 Having a primary care
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:22:33.418 --> 00:22:36.717 Doctor who can kind of do a very good

NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:36.717 --> 00:22:39.318 history and physical and work
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:39.318 --> 00:22:41.766 things up might be very efficient.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:41.770 --> 00:22:43.243 My perception, however,
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:43.243 --> 00:22:46.680 is that there is some reticence on
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:46.765 --> 00:22:49.840 the part of the American public
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:49.840 --> 00:22:52.540 to embrace a system with primary
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:52.540 --> 00:22:55.090 care as a gatekeeper.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:55.090 --> 00:22:58.962 We've seen this in other systems of what's
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:22:58.962 --> 00:23:01.784 commonly called, quote, socialized medicine.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:23:01.784 --> 00:23:04.256 I'm using air quotes here.
00:23:07.720 --> 00:23:10.699 It seems to me that that is something that
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:23:10.699 --> 00:23:13.557 not a lot of Americans really embrace.
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:23:13.560 --> 00:23:16.576 Can you talk a little bit more about
00:23:17.612 --> 00:23:20.708 whether you get pushback from veterans
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:23:20.708 --> 00:23:24.676 who don't want to go through primary care?
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778
00:23:24.680 --> 00:23:28.199 Is there an obligation for them to do so?
NOTE Confidence: 0.924119507777778

00:23:28.200 --> 00:23:30.040 How does that work?
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:32.880 --> 00:23:35.358 Actually, I don't.
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:35.360 --> 00:23:38.480 The VA does require every veteran
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:38.480 --> 00:23:42.090 to have a primary care provider.
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:42.090 --> 00:23:43.562 But you know,
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:43.562 --> 00:23:45.402 you shouldn't call them gatekeepers.
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:45.410 --> 00:23:46.474 These people are not,
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:46.474 --> 00:23:47.804 that's not their main role.
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:47.810 --> 00:23:51.436 Their role is to maintain and promote
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:51.436 --> 00:23:55.030 the health of their patients and
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:55.030 --> 00:23:57.970 the gatekeeping function is, I would say,
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:23:57.970 --> 00:24:02.884 minor relative to all the other
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:02.884 --> 00:24:07.190 benefits they can offer the patient.
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:07.190 --> 00:24:11.310 But I also think that an efficient
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:11.413 --> 00:24:14.954 system helps the patients, for example,
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:14.954 --> 00:24:17.239 when we have an abnormal

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:17.239 --> 00:24:19.639 cat scan of the chest,

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:19.640 --> 00:24:22.652 we bring that scan to our

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:22.652 --> 00:24:24.389 multidisciplinary forum, a tumor board,

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:24.389 --> 00:24:25.847 and we decide right away where

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:25.847 --> 00:24:27.256 this veteran is going to go.

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:27.260 --> 00:24:30.417 Will they go directly to the surgeon?

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:30.420 --> 00:24:33.884 Will they go to the oncologist or the

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:33.884 --> 00:24:36.337 radiation therapist instead of the

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:36.337 --> 00:24:38.847 veteran himself going from specialist

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:38.847 --> 00:24:41.217 to specialist only to say, oh,

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:41.217 --> 00:24:43.856 sorry, I can't do surgery or sorry,

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:43.860 --> 00:24:46.306 this is not a tumor that's

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:46.306 --> 00:24:48.244 conducive to radiation,

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:48.244 --> 00:24:52.775 so you can't put together systems that help

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:52.780 --> 00:24:57.756 the patient, him or herself and save money,

NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:57.760 --> 00:24:59.976 and that's really what we try and do
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:24:59.976 --> 00:25:02.531 at the VA that's one of the things
NOTE Confidence: 0.89857251

00:25:02.531 --> 00:25:04.468 I've really pushed for at my VA.
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:05.400 --> 00:25:07.430 Yeah, I couldn't agree with you more.
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:07.430 --> 00:25:10.769 You know, it seems to me that
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:10.769 --> 00:25:15.760 the VA is a microcosm of kind of
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:15.760 --> 00:25:19.190 universal healthcare in the sense
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:19.312 --> 00:25:23.788 that VA offer veterans access.
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:23.790 --> 00:25:26.450 You know, they're all covered.
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:26.450 --> 00:25:30.524 There are multiple VA's around the country
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:30.530 --> 00:25:35.489 that offer services and can do so in a
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:35.490 --> 00:25:37.706 cost efficient manner,
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:37.706 --> 00:25:43.551 do you think that as a country
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:43.551 --> 00:25:47.954 it's something to consider in terms of
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:47.954 --> 00:25:52.094 following the VA system for everybody
NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:52.094 --> 00:25:54.888 and expanding access to everybody

NOTE Confidence: 0.935863927142857

00:25:54.888 --> 00:25:57.760 under a system kind of like the VA?

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:25:58.210 --> 00:26:02.900 Well, I'm biased obviously I would say

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:02.900 --> 00:26:05.526 yes you know healthcare systems are very

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:05.530 --> 00:26:06.642 complex systems,

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:06.642 --> 00:26:11.940 and there are pros and cons to every system.

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:11.940 --> 00:26:15.190 Certainly there are plenty of

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:15.190 --> 00:26:17.326 problems in the VA system too,

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:17.330 --> 00:26:22.834 but overall I think I do believe that

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:22.840 --> 00:26:25.703 having a system in which

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:25.703 --> 00:26:30.618 the mission is more comprehensive care,

00:26:32.348 --> 00:26:36.132 it is a not-for-profit and when

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:36.132 --> 00:26:39.552 providers are mostly salaried and

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:39.552 --> 00:26:45.448 not so much dependent on doing more

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:45.448 --> 00:26:48.520 procedures is beneficial to everyone.

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:48.520 --> 00:26:51.270 I think it saves money.

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:51.270 --> 00:26:53.685 I think it most importantly

NOTE Confidence: 0.80239280625

00:26:53.685 --> 00:26:57.020 promotes the health of patients.

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:26:57.170 --> 00:26:59.948 Yeah, certainly realigning

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:26:59.948 --> 00:27:02.726 incentives is helpful.

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:27:02.730 --> 00:27:07.200 One of the critiques that universal

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:27:07.200 --> 00:27:10.076 healthcare systems like the VA,

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:27:10.076 --> 00:27:12.386 like the Canadian healthcare system,

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:27:12.390 --> 00:27:17.080 like the NHS have is that,

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:27:17.080 --> 00:27:21.460 well a few criticisms, one is

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:27:21.460 --> 00:27:22.513 prolonged wait times,

NOTE Confidence: 0.83394536

00:27:22.513 --> 00:27:25.560 do you find that in the VA system?

NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:25.940 --> 00:27:27.644 So I can't speak for the

NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:27.644 --> 00:27:29.290 VA system as a whole.

NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:29.290 --> 00:27:32.055 Of course it's a huge healthcare system.

NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:32.060 --> 00:27:34.596 Like I said, the largest we

NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:34.596 --> 00:27:36.100 are required for example,

NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:36.100 --> 00:27:37.680 and this is every specialist,
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:37.680 --> 00:27:40.760 to see a patient within 30 days.
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:40.760 --> 00:27:42.400 If we cannot fit that
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:42.400 --> 00:27:44.040 patient in within 30 days,
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:44.040 --> 00:27:47.656 they are to be sent to the community.
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:47.660 --> 00:27:51.052 We often find that when we send patients
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:51.052 --> 00:27:54.113 out to the Community they wait 60
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:54.113 --> 00:27:57.589 days and 90 days and longer so
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:57.590 --> 00:27:59.210 actually being part
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:27:59.210 --> 00:28:01.640 of a system where you are
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:28:01.640 --> 00:28:03.785 required to provide access and
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:28:03.785 --> 00:28:06.576 to see patients in a timely
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:28:06.576 --> 00:28:08.800 fashion is very important.
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:28:08.800 --> 00:28:12.270 Try getting an appointment for a
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:28:14.290 --> 00:28:16.056 Dermatologist, subspecialist.
00:28:17.978 --> 00:28:21.986 I know it's a complicated matter,
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:28:21.990 --> 00:28:25.482 but I am very much in favor of a
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:28:25.482 --> 00:28:28.887 system having benchmarks and holding
NOTE Confidence: 0.868011993636364

00:28:28.890 --> 00:28:30.798 members accountable.
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:31.610 --> 00:28:33.764 Doctor Michal Rose is a professor
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:33.764 --> 00:28:36.384 of medicine and director of the West
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:36.384 --> 00:28:38.249 Haven VA Comprehensive Cancer Center.
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:38.250 --> 00:28:40.338 If you have questions,
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:40.338 --> 00:28:42.376 the address is canceranswers@yale.edu,
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:42.376 --> 00:28:45.172 and past editions of the program
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:45.172 --> 00:28:47.591 are available in audio and written
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:47.591 --> 00:28:48.542 form at yalecancercenter.org.
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:48.542 --> 00:28:51.038 We hope you'll join us next week to
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:51.038 --> 00:28:52.941 learn more about the fight against
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:52.941 --> 00:28:54.830 cancer here on Connecticut Public Radio.
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:54.830 --> 00:28:57.488 Funding for Yale Cancer Answers is
NOTE Confidence: 0.874412496111111

00:28:57.488 --> 00:29:00.000 provided by Smilow Cancer Hospital.