

Hnf020614

Health newsfeed for Thursday, February 6, 2014

HEADLINE: PROSTATE BLOOD SUPPLY

ANCHOR LEAD: CAN ENLARGED PROSTATES BE TREATED BY REDUCING THEIR BLOOD SUPPLY? ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

Enlarged prostate glands, known in medical parlance as benign prostatic hyperplasia or BPH, are the rule rather than the exception as men age, along with symptoms like frequent urination to more serious consequences. Now Mark Lessne, an interventional radiologist at Johns Hopkins, describes a new approach to treatment.

LESSNE: We are part of an international, multicenter trial comparing a new treatment for BPH, which is benign enlargement of the prostate. Traditionally these patients can be treated with medicines, but in a large group of patients medicines just don't work, and so the treatment of choice has been surgery taking out part of the prostate. We're comparing that treatment with a newer treatment called prostate artery embolization. Prostate artery embolization is where an interventional radiologist accesses the arteries that supply blood to the prostate, and we close off these arteries with particles or spheres. :32

At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.