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##### November 27, 2013

**A TALK THAT CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE**

**Talk to Your Doctor and Learn the Facts of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**

***NOVEMBER IS COPD AWARENESS MONTH***

(: 60)

SCRIPT: Nationwide, more than 12 million people have been diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or COPD, and as many as 12 million more may have the disease but don’t know it. COPD is the third leading cause of death in the U.S., according to the National Institutes of Health. Dr. James Kiley, of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute or NHLBI, talks about risk factors and the importance of early diagnosis.

CUT: (Dr. Kiley) We know the major risk factor for this disease is smoking. But, that’s not the only way you get COPD. We know 1 in 6 people have COPD that have never smoked. Early detection of this disease is critical. If you talk to your doctor about your symptoms, there are treatments available. And that could lead to better quality of life.

SCRIPT: Symptoms like shortness of breath, chronic coughing or wheezing come on slowly and worsen over time. John Walsh is president of the COPD Foundation and has the disease.

CUT: (Walsh) I think it’s very important to be specific about what you’re able to do today as compared to a year ago as compared to two years ago and have an open discussion with your physician about how you really feel.

SCRIPT: For more, go to nhlbi.nih.gov. This message brought to you by the NHLBI.

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Produced for: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

For more information on this story, contact Synaptic Digital Radio at 212-812-7058

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