



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

ANCA Vasculitis Treatments

“ANCA Treatments: Risk for Bleeding”

Patient: So, am I at risk for bleeding if I take aspirin every day, along with these other medicines?

Dr. Falk: I think taking a baby aspirin, 81 milligrams of aspirin a day, is good for most older individuals. By older, it's probably over the tender age of 50. I think that if you take an aspirin, with that little dose, you shouldn't have real bleeding problems. But I've seen patients have increased bruising on 81 milligrams of aspirin a day if they're taking a lot of prednisone.

So you may have to cut that aspirin in half, if you're developing bruising with prednisone and aspirin. And certainly aspirin is not good if you're substantially anemic—in other words, your hemoglobin has fallen. Either because your disease is active or because of the drugs. There's one place that aspirin therapy must be stopped: If you're having bleeding from your lungs—for any reason, aspirin must be stopped. Or aspirin must be stopped if you're having an invasive procedure—a kidney biopsy, any kind of test which involves putting a needle into some place that has a propensity to bleed.