



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

FSGS

“What is FSGS?”

Patient: Dr. Falk, what is FSGS?

Dr. Falk: FSGS or Focal Segmental Glomerular Sclerosis, is a disease process, or really a group of diseases, that causes the leakage of protein from the blood into the urine. This protein leak is a consequence of scarring, or sclerosis, of the filters of the kidney known as glomeruli. And you have a million, or a million and a half glomeruli between both of your kidneys.

Now focal and segmental glomerular sclerosis means that some of these glomeruli are focally injured, that is, only some glomeruli. If all the glomeruli were injured, it would be called a diffuse disease. So, focal and segmental.

What do we mean by segmental? Segmental means that a portion of the glomeruli are scarred. So focal and segmental glomerular sclerosis. And this is an entity that the pathologists see when they look under the microscope at a kidney biopsy.