



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

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Vasculitis Foundation- North Carolina/Raleigh Chapter patient support meeting
“Why can’t you turn off my disease?”

If you know as much as you now know about my disease, well why can’t you turn it off- like that? C’mon. C’mon, Ron, you’ve been doing now this for 20 some-odd years, why can’t you turn it off?

Partly, because the drugs are not available. Partly, because we don’t know everything yet. But we do know already, how to turn the disease off in the vast majority of people within the first three months. So typically, extensive therapy is now rate-limited to three months—Dear sir, in 1974 I bet you you were on Cyclophosphamide for a long time.

Now the goal is to limit that exposure to three or four months and switch to other drugs to get rid of the antibody producing cells that produce that antibody, getting rid of the B cell, the lymphocyte that produces those antibodies. And then, we’re all moving into the area of turning off that part of you that makes the antibody react to the white cell. Turning off the white cell. So the fun thought is that in the not so distant future, we may have targeted therapy for this disease. Turning off the antibodies. Turning off the white blood cells. And shutting it off without killing off all the white cells. That’s what Cytoxan and Prednisone does. That’s what Cellcept and Azathioprine do, but through different approaches. So the therapy, where we’re getting with therapy, in terms of selective therapy, is not in the distant future—it’s in the near future.