



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

Anti-GBM

“Anti-GBM: How do you treat it?”

Patient How do you treat this disease?

Dr Falk This is a very sudden, aggressive disease. As a matter of fact, this disease is named after a gentleman from Nashville, Tennessee, Erny Goodpasture. His first case, was an individual, an 18 year old, who did not fare well. His first patient died. That was in the early part of the 1900s. Fortunately, treatment has really improved since then.

Right now, the goal is to get rid of that antibody as fast as possible by removing it with something called plasmapheresis. This is a technique where your blood is removed and circulated in a machine that returns clean blood with the antibody in it. That’s really an important step early in the course of the disease because it gets rid of the antibody that’s causing such havoc. Then one ends up using steroids, glucocorticoids like solumedrol and prednisone, to decrease inflammation. And alkylating agents, strong chemotherapy drugs—cyclophosphamide, Cytosan, that really makes the antibody go away.

The good news is that if treatment is successful, it can be stomped in a matter of three to six months. It doesn’t need to continue long term. For this disease, if treatment is effective, hardly ever results in a relapse.