



UNC  
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

ANCA Vasculitis Treatments

“ANCA Treatments: Individualized Therapy”

Patient: I've heard of individualized therapy and how it can help improve patient outcomes by giving just the right dose of just the right medicine. Can you tell me a little about that? Is anything happening with vasculitis?

Dr. Falk: We have historically dosed patients on the basis of “one size fits all.” We do that for most of medicine. And what's called personalized medicine, or individualized therapy, is really here. The question has to come for any given person—“Do they need more or less of any particular drug?” We're getting a better handle on those genes that in fact are responsible for producing enzymes that metabolize many drugs that they're on. Some people have lots of enzymatic activity and you give them a drug and they metabolize it or chew it up with incredible speed. Those individuals need more drug or more frequently administered. Then there are patients who have very little enzymatic activity and the drug stays along forever. Exactly how this fits with, for example, Cytoxan therapy or Mycophenolate Mofetil therapy is actually being studied in vasculitic patients right now.

There are a lot of factors—some of it may be your genes, some of it may be what you eat, some of it may be what other drugs you're taking. But individualized therapy should decrease the number of side effects of most of the drugs that we use.