



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

Membranous Nephropathy Treatments

“Membranous Treatments: Cancer Risk”

Patient: I've heard that there's a higher risk of cancer in people who have Membranous Nephropathy. Is that true, and if so, should I avoid some of these treatments such as Cytoxan, that may also increase my risk of cancer?

Dr Falk: In patients who older than the age of 55, there is an association of cancer and Membranous Nephropathy. And interestingly, the cancer can come first, or the Membranous Nephropathy can come first, or they can occur at the same time. So there is a higher risk of cancer in Membranous Nephropathy. But usually in an older population. And you should have screening tests in case you haven't already had those done to make sure that you don't have obvious signs of colon, breast, ovary or prostate cancer.

But you are absolutely correct-you have to worry about using an alkylating agent, such as Cyclophosphamide or Cytoxan as there is an increased risk of cancer with those drugs. Perhaps a different kind of treatment, including the use of Cyclosporine, would be a better option in that case, however Cyclosporine is also associated with malignancy, but at a lesser extent than is Cyclophosphamide or Cytoxan.