



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

Membranous Nephropathy Treatments

“Membranous Treatments: What is the nephrotic syndrome?”

Patient: My doctor told me that I have nephrotic syndrome. What is that?

Dr Falk: The nephrotic syndrome are a group of four different clinical signs and symptoms of disease, all diseases that hurt glomeruli, the filters of the blood. You have about a million and a half of these filters. When they're damaged, they can leak protein into the urine. If you leak a lot of protein in the urine, the amount of protein in the blood goes down.

So, people with the nephrotic syndrome have lots of protein in their urine and they have a decrease in the amount of protein in the blood. The most common protein is serum albumin. When you leak protein in the urine and the serum albumin falls, you tend to have a lot of fluid or edema in your legs and other parts of your body. Your cholesterol goes up. We'll talk more about cholesterol in a moment. Membranous Nephropathy is one of those kinds of diseases that hurt glomeruli, hurt those filters and cause a lot of protein in the urine.