



UNC  
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

Membranous Nephropathy Treatments

“Membranous Treatments: Remission”

Patient: I've read that this disease can sometimes go away on its own without any treatment. How often does this happen and if this happened to me, could I stop taking all of these medicines?

Dr Falk: In one-third of everybody with Membranous Nephropathy, the disease goes entirely away by itself-a wonderful spontaneous remission. It typically happens in women. It typically happens if there's a smaller amount of protein in the urine. And in another third, the disease process smolders along and never causes substantial damage. But if your disease goes into remission, and it can take up to three or even four years for that to happen, then happily you can stop taking almost all medications. You still may have to take medicines to decrease your blood pressure, but all of the medicines that would be used to suppress your immune system are not necessary, as the disease has gone away either with those drugs, or because it has gone away by itself.