



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

Fibrillary GN

“Fibrillary GN: What are the symptoms?”

Patient: Can you tell me more about all of the possible symptoms that I might experience with this disease?

Dr Falk: Most of the symptoms that you are going to have are all associated with the loss of protein in your urine. If you lose protein in your urine, the amount of protein in your blood goes down. So your serum albumin level will go down. Your liver will try to make more of this protein and at the same time will make more cholesterol. You'll have a high cholesterol, a low serum protein, and as a consequence of the low serum protein, and the fact that your kidney wants to hold onto salt and water that you're taking in, you'll start swelling. Swelling in your legs, around your eyes—this process is called the nephrotic syndrome: loss of protein in the urine with all of the subsequent problems that may occur. Most patients with Fibrillary GN, however, don't have a disease process outside of their kidney, although some—very, very few—have had problems with their lungs.