



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

IgA Nephropathy

“IgA: Why do I have blood in my urine?”

Patient: Recently I've seen blood in my urine. This is really a scary event. Why am I bleeding?

Dr. Falk: IgA Nephropathy is most commonly associated with microscopic hematuria. That is, blood that is only detected in the urine when your kidney doctor looks under the microscope and sees that there's blood in your urine. Macroscopic hematuria, or blood that you can see, is truly very upsetting.

But it's important to distinguish blood from urological causes—the kidney, the ureter, the bladder, from bleeding that's associated with glomerular disease, with damage to those filters. Blood that comes from glomerular bleeding as in IgA Nephropathy looks tea colored or Coca-Cola colored. Blood that comes from the bladder or ureters is typically pretty red looking and may or may not have clots.

But any blood in the urine is very upsetting, and indicates, in terms of IgA Nephropathy, a substantial amount of inflammation in many of those glomeruli.