



UNC  
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

IgA Nephropathy

“IgA: How did I get it?”

Patient: How did I get this disease? Where did it come from?

Dr. Falk: Unfortunately we really don't know. The proximal cause of this glomerular disease or of many other glomerular diseases. To a certain extent, some of IgA Nephropathy is a genetic disease. There are families, for example, in whom many members of that family develop IgA Glomerulonephritis.

But it is most likely that IgA Nephropathy is a consequence of an abnormal kind of IgA molecule in combination with, perhaps, an infection of some kind. For instance, you know that when you develop inflammation or an infection in your pharynx, streptococcal disease, strep-pharyngitis, for example, or inflammation or infection of your skin, the IgA Glomerulonephritis may flare.

So it's likely that there's some association between this abnormal processing of IgA and the development of infectious diseases.