



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

IgA Nephropathy

“IgA: What sorts of drugs will I need to take?”

Patient: What sorts of drugs will I need to take?”

Dr. Falk: In some cases, IgA Nephropathy is best served by the use of immunosuppressive drugs. There are a number of protocols. Some protocols using pulses of methylprednisolone and then alternate day steroids. Some protocols using steroids and more potent immunosuppressive drugs. And other kinds of protocols in which a drug called Cellcept or Mycophenolate Mofetil have been used.

There are very few studies that prove that any of these kinds of therapies are maximally effective—that is, one form of therapy is better than the other. And it is here that you must talk with your kidney doctor so that they may individualize the kind of immunosuppressive therapy for your precise disease.

For the most part, the use of blood pressure drugs, such as those that are angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, or angiotensin receptor blockers, that decrease the amount of protein in the urine, seem to be the first line of therapy, and I would use those before I considered any kind of immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory drug.