



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

IgA Nephropathy

“IgA: What is it?”

Patient: What is IgA Nephropathy?

Dr. Falk: IgA Nephropathy is a kind of kidney disease in which the filtering units of the kidney, known as glomeruli, are injured. They’re injured because of the deposition of an immunoglobulin known as IgA being deposited within the filter itself.

Normally, IgA is part of your defense mechanism for mucosal immunity. That’s the immunoglobulin that comes from your tonsils and adenoids and other parts of your gastrointestinal tract. Why the IgA immunoglobulin becomes deposited in the kidney, is not clear. But it may have something to do with alterations in the structure of this immunoglobulin.

Regardless, what happens is that the immunoglobulin IgA deposits within these glomeruli and incites an inflammatory reaction which ends up hurting or damaging the filters themselves.