



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:

Dr. Ron Falk

Minimal Change Disease

“Minimal Change Disease: Does this disease lead to FSGS?”

Parent of Patient I've heard this disease can lead to another disease called FSGS. Why does this happen, and does it happen often?

Dr. Falk So I actually don't think that Minimal Change Disease necessarily leads to FSGS. I think that FSGS, or Focal Segmental Glomerular Sclerosis, is undiagnosed in the population. Initially, kidney biopsies aren't performed and the response to prednisone is how we know whether or not a patient has minimal change disease. If patients—and in your daughter's case, she's responded to prednisone, so I don't believe she has FSGS— but if she were treatment-resistant, I would worry that we missed FSGS on the kidney biopsy.

There are other investigators however, who really believe that Minimal Change and FSGS are part of one large spectrum. I think the jury is out on this issue. So how would it happen if it did happen? One possibility is that a lot of loss of protein in the urine going through the kidney could cause some degree of kidney dysfunction. In reality I think these are largely different diseases and since your daughter has been so prednisone responsive, I actually think that the worry of FSGS is unwarranted at this time.