



UNC
KIDNEY CENTER

Podcast Transcript:
Dr. Ron Falk
Membranous Nephropathy
“Will I get better?”

Patient: So, will this disease go away? Will I get better? Even if I’m not one of those people in the spontaneous remission group?

Dr Falk: A whole group of patients who don’t have complete remission actually have partial remissions. That is, the proteinuria gets better, the kidney function gets better, their cholesterol goes down, and the disease grumbles along. And the disease can grumble along for decades, in fact, and patients do remarkably well.

It’s the group of patients who have persistently high amounts of protein in their urine and develop kidney damage that leads to abnormal kidney function--They’re the ones who need more aggressive therapy.

Patient: Would one option be a kidney transplant?

Dr Falk: If your kidney function deteriorates and you end up needing kidney replacement therapy, then a kidney transplant is perfectly acceptable. As a matter of fact, it is the treatment of choice for this kind of kidney disease, as well as for most kinds of kidney diseases that lead to kidney failure.