

A Mother's Point of View...

Mason Reiter's Story



“They referred us to a Urologist who had no explanation for a baby passing a kidney stone...”

– Nancy Reiter

Mason is a happy 6 year old boy who is full of life. He is kind to his friends and family and very protective of his little sister Rachel. He has a love for Star Wars, Pokemon and elephants. He swims like a fish and loves every minute of being in the water. He's going into first grade and loves to be read to. Sounds pretty normal right? What people don't know, is that Mason has a rare disease called Primary Hyperoxaluria and it can be deadly.

On May 25, 2005 our special little boy was born. Since the age of 12, I've been babysitting children and even though Mason was my first born, I knew something was wrong. After four grueling months of sleepless nights and constant trips to the pediatrician, Mason was diagnosed with colic. At 6 months of age, with no relief in sight, we were finally sent to a gastroenterologist and Mason was diagnosed with acid reflux.

The doctors put Mason on Prevacid to lower the acid in his stomach and hopefully stop the reflux. He was still a very fussy baby and appeared to be in pain. He would straighten his legs and just scream. One afternoon he screamed like his body was going to explode and then fainted. The doctor placed him on an Amino acid based formula around 9 months of age which seemed to give him some relief. Then at 15 months, the real cause for all his troubles reared its ugly head. Mason passed a kidney stone that I had to remove from his body. Our pediatricians were puzzled. They referred us to a Urologist who had no explanation for a baby passing a kidney stone. Three months later, after we found another stone in his diaper, we were referred to a Pediatric Nephrologist. More testing showed a very low bicarb level so Mason was given a diagnosis of Renal Tubular Acidosis (Tiny Tim Syndrome) and treated with BiCitra oral solution.

OHF Patient Stories

By the age of 3, Mason was finally potty trained and our doctor ordered a 24-hour urine collection. When the results came back the doctor called me on the phone, told me Mason's oxalate levels were "off the charts" suggesting Hyperoxaluria and asked us to repeat the 24-hour urine test. The doctor asked us to not look up any information on the internet and just repeat the tests. The results of the second test were identical to the first. After waiting almost 2 months for an appointment to actually see Mason's Nephrologist, our hearts were broken and we were scared to death by a very grim diagnosis, that Mason has a genetic disease called Hyperoxaluria. We were devastated!

We then contacted the OHF funded Mayo Clinic Hyperox-

aluria Center and started the process for genetic testing. Fortunately, we also found a wonderful Pediatric Nephrologist at the University of Michigan who was willing to work in conjunction with the Mayo Clinic Hyperoxaluria Center, to provide the best care possible for our little guy. With their combined expertise, we are ecstatic to report that Mason is currently on medication and STONE free! His oxalate levels continue to be consistent with Primary Hyperoxaluria, type unknown. He will be stone free 5 years this November.

This year, my family and I will be walking for a cure for Primary Hyperoxaluria. Please join us as we walk to raise awareness and funds, to find a cure for our son Mason and all who suffer from Primary Hyperoxaluria.