

J28 Scaly Skin

July 2009

Intro: Imagine being afraid to pick up your child because any pressure on her skin could cause blisters and pain. That's a reality for the little girl you're about to meet. She has a genetic condition called epidermolytic hyperkeratosis. Her skin looks scaly and tough, but it is so sensitive even clothing hurts.

Video

Total running time 1:38

CG :04 to :09

Melissa Sanford

Kirsten's mom

Audio

LITTLE KIRSTEN SANFORD HAS NEVER KNOWN WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HAVE NORMAL SKIN

"IF THE ELASTIC IN THE SOCKS AROUND HER ANKLES IS TOO TIGHT SHE'LL GET A BLISTER. AND YOU CAN'T USE BAND-AIDS ON HER BECAUSE IT'LL PULL HER SKIN RIGHT OFF."

BUT WHEN KIRSTIN STEPS INTO A SWIMMING POOL, SHE CAN FORGET FOR A MOMENT ABOUT HER SKIN. (SPASH)
THE WATER FEELS GOOD ON THE THICK SCALY CRACKS AND

BLISTERS CAUSED BY A GENETIC
CONDITION CALLED
EPIDERMOLYTIC
HYPERKERATOSIS. BUT EVEN
SWIMMING WITH DAD CAN CAUSE
PAIN.

“IT’S HARD TO PICK HER UP
WITHOUT HURTING HER.”

CG :31 to :42

Dawn Davis, M.D.

Mayo Clinic

“EPIDERMOLYTIC
HYPERKERATOSIS IS A GENETIC
DISORDER OF A KERATIN
ABNORMALITY WHICH CAUSES
YOUR SKIN CELLS, THE KERATIN
PROTEIN, TO BE MORE FRAGILE
OR BREAK DOWN.”

Standup

CG :42 to :49

Vivien Williams

Reporting

DR. DAWN DAVIS SAYS KERATIN IS
A ROPE-SHAPED PROTEIN THAT
MAKES UP KERATINOCYTES,
WHICH ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS
OF YOUR SKIN. NORMALLY, THESE
BUILDING BLOCKS SHED KERATIN,
RENEWING THE SKIN BARRIER
EVERY 28 DAYS. BUT PEOPLE WITH

EPIDERMOLYTIC
HYPERKERATOSIS DON'T SHED
KERATIN PROPERLY. THE FAULTY
KERATIN STRUCTURE CAUSES
SKIN TO BECOME WEAK, AND
PRONE TO BLISTERS AND
INFECTIONS. SKIN TRIES TO BUILD
ITSELF UP, BUT
UNSUCCESSFULLY. HER PARENTS
FOUND HOPE AT MAYO CLINIC.
"WE'LL TRY TO HELP YOU OUT
WITH THAT, OK?"
DR. DAVIS SAYS WITH PROPER
TREATMENT – ORAL RETINOLS
AND SPECIAL CREAM – KIRSTIN
WILL LIKELY SEE A 90-PERCENT
IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITION
OF HER SKIN.
"I HOPE SHE CAN LIVE AS NORMAL
A LIFE AS ANY KID WOULD WANT
TO LIVE."
AS YOU CAN SEE NOW FROM
THESE PICTURES TAKEN A FEW

CG 1:14 to 1:29
Darrell Sanford

MONTHS AFTER KIRSTIN STARTED
MEDICATION, TREATMENT IS
WORKING. FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I'M
VIVIEN WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

There is no cure for this skin condition. Kirstin will have to take medication for it all of her life. And because it's genetic, she has a 50-percent chance of passing it on to her children. But, it is a condition that can be controlled and Dr. Davis says with treatment Kirstin will have near normal skin.

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