

The Silvia Mitova Invitational “Flipping to Find Cures”

EoE Eosinophilic Esophagitis



Devon Conn is a Level 5 gymnast. Devon was diagnosed at 1 year old with EoE. We were told that she would be put on an elemental diet for 3 months and then we would have to start re-introducing food to her one at a time to see what foods she could eat. She spent years vomiting non-stop, dealing with chronic abdominal pain, headaches, choking on food, feeding therapy to learn how to eat.



We spent the last 9 1/2 years doing “food trials” in which she will eat 1-2 foods for 3 months, then be put under anesthesia and get scoped where they take biopsies of her esophagus and stomach. She has been scoped over 30 times. Since doctors gave Devon an adult dose of swallowed steroid twice a day, she has added about 15 foods but has failed at bigger foods such as wheat, dairy, soy, peanut, pork, turkey. She can have eggs cooked in foods but not an actual egg. She can have apple as an ingredient but not an actual apple.

BUT she is strong, beautiful, sweet, funny and a rock in this family. You can never tell on the outside that she’s fighting on the inside.

Dillon is the little brother of Elliot Harris, a level 5 gymnast. Dillon was diagnosed with failure to thrive after years of difficulty eating, vomiting after meals and struggling to gain weight. Dillon was diagnosed with EoE, Eosinophilic (e-o-sin-o-fil-ik) esophagitis (e-so-fa-gi-tis), when he was 7 years old. Dillon's body can't process certain foods, but in order to determine which foods, he needs to continually eliminate different foods from his diet every few months, followed by an upper endoscopy to see if his esophagus shows any signs of improvement or if eosinophils (allergy cells) are still present.



There is no known cure for EoE yet, but The CHOP Center for Pediatric Eosinophilic Disorders, with the help of donations, is working hard to find a cure!

Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) is a rare allergic inflammatory disease of the esophagus. It occurs when a type of white blood cell accumulates in the esophagus and cause injury and inflammation to the esophagus. This can cause difficulty swallowing, food impactions, nausea & vomiting, failure to thrive, chronic abdominal or chest pain, feeding refusal/intolerance and difficulty sleeping. Devon was diagnosed at 1 year old and still goes through food trials every 3-4 months in hopes of adding foods to her diet. At this time, she has approximately 15 safe foods.

While there is no known cure yet, CHOP is leading the charge with groundbreaking research through The Center for Pediatric Eosinophilic Disorders.

