



GAUCHER
connection

A Lifeline for Patients
Living with Gaucher Disease



May 2012

Welcome to Gaucher Connection eNews

Hello!

Nothing's better than feeling healthy enough not to worry about Gaucher disease. But it's still important to stay aware of signs that might need to be checked by a health care provider. In this issue we have some tips for staying aware of symptoms.

Personalizing Therapy

Your body changes over time—and for many people, so does their Gaucher disease. It may start to progress faster or slower or affect different parts of the body than before. That's why to keep you healthy and symptom-free, your treatment plan must stay personalized to your current status.

If symptoms start to "break through" in spite of treatment, you may just need an adjustment to your therapy dosage. Only your doctor can decide what's necessary, but it's your responsibility to keep them informed of any changes. Treating symptoms early is important for helping prevent them from becoming more serious.

Knowing the Signs

You already know the most common symptoms of Gaucher disease: anemia, enlarged spleen and/or liver, bone disease. Keep in mind how they may affect you:

- Feeling more tired than usual
- Loss of appetite
- Developing bruises easily
- Pain in bones or joints

If you've been healthy and symptom-free for awhile, it's easy to forget what your Gaucher can do. You might think you're tired because of a recent cold or particularly busy work week, or dismiss aches and pains as signs of getting older. But only your doctor can determine for sure what's behind your symptoms - so be alert to these signs and make a habit of advising your health care team of any changes.

Tracking Symptoms

Date	Reporting Symptoms		Notes
	Medical Care Received	Health Care Provider	

Using a symptom-tracking form [like this one](#) can help you stay aware of changes in your body and health—so you remember to report them to your health care providers.

You don't need to wait until your next appointment—especially if it's months away. Call your health care providers any time you have concerns you want to discuss. They will let you know if you need to come in for further testing and evaluation.

Take Action

Don't hesitate to call your health care providers any time you have concerns about changes to your health. To help you document issues you want to discuss, print a few copies of this email so you can fill in the symptom-tracking form.

Learn more about [Managing Gaucher at the Gaucher Connection website](#). [Go >>](#)

Patient spotlight: Michael

- 40-year-old architect
- Living with Gaucher
- Works hard running his own firm
- Works with his doctor to manage his care



Read how [Michael teams with his doctor as a lifetime partner in his care](#). [Go >>](#)

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Patient Stories are examples based on aggregate medical data. The characters represented are not actual Gaucher patients. Their stories are inspired by those of real Gaucher patients.

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