



GAUCHER
connection

A Lifeline for Patients
Living with Gaucher Disease



May 2013

Welcome to Gaucher Connection eNews

Hello !

Thank you for signing up for Gaucher Connection eNews, the monthly newsletter designed to help keep you up-to-date and on track with Gaucher disease treatment and management. In this issue we look at how a progressive disease like Gaucher affects your body and how you can take action. Plus, we check in with Julia and learn how being committed to treatment has helped her.

Keeping it all in balance

When you're feeling healthy, it can be easy to forget that Gaucher disease is a lifelong condition. Day-to-day life, from the little details to the big events, has a way of taking over and pushing treatment priorities aside. Staying informed about your Gaucher can help you keep life in balance, maintain a healthy perspective on treatment and better juggle all the responsibilities of living with Gaucher disease.

Effects of a progressive disease

Remember when you were first diagnosed? Your health care provider probably explained how Gaucher disease affects your body. An important enzyme called **glucocerebrosidase** is either missing, in short supply, or not working properly. This results in the build-up of a fatty waste substance called **glucocerebroside** inside cells, causing a variety of symptoms like an enlarged liver and spleen, anemia, and bone problems.

Living with a progressive disease

This process is called "progressive" because without treatment, it always progresses, or continues. But when you're receiving treatment, your body gets the enzyme it needs to keep this process in check. With treatment your Gaucher symptoms may subside and you may feel healthier. Remember to always follow your doctor's advice - this will help you to continue to avoid your Gaucher symptoms.

Take Action

Remember, by being more informed of your treatment, you can better manage your health and Gaucher disease. In doing so you'll gain the freedom to focus more on other things you care about—family, friends, career goals, hobbies, interests and more.

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

Gaucher Progression

Watch an animated illustration of the process. [Go >>](#)

Patient spotlight: Julia

- 35-year-old algebra teacher
- Mother
- committed to treatment since high school



Read Julia's story on [how treatment has made a difference](#). [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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