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Doctors team up to treat a rare allergy

The Children's Hospital and National Jewish Health focus on eosinophilic esophagitis

By **Kristen Lindsay**
YourHub.com Contributor

The Children's Hospital and National Jewish Health have teamed up to diagnose and treat a rare allergy disorder called eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE).

The Gastrointestinal Eosinophilic Diseases Program at The Children's Hospital and National Jewish Health is the only multi-disciplinary clinic in the Rocky Mountain region that diagnoses and treats EoE.

The joint program is run by Glenn T. Furuta, MD, pediatric gastroenterologist and Dan Atkins, MD, pediatric allergist, physicians who are on the faculty of The Children's Hospital and National Jewish Health.

The disease is characterized by swelling of the esophagus, which is caused by eosinophils, a type of white blood cell that is primarily associated with allergies.

Those who suffer from the disease can

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Wendy Book, MD, president of the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders

experience abdominal pain, feeding problems, difficulty swallowing, nausea and vomiting, and weight loss.

In rare circumstances, patients may need feeding tubes to treat their disease.

Wendy Book, MD, president of the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED), understands that the disease can cause extreme eating problems.

“For some of the children, it affects their ability to eat all foods,” Dr. Book said. “Some are even tube fed an elemental formula of amino acids.”

A patient is only said to have EoE when

other more common diseases, like gastroesophageal reflux disease, have been ruled out.

This leads to hardship for both patients and parents as many tests may need to be performed before a diagnosis can be reached, causing anxiety and stress for patients and families.

Book, whose 10-year-old son has the disease, appreciates the hard work The Children's Hospital and National Jewish Health have put into the program for those who have EoE.

“I am amazed at how well TCH and NJH work together to form this pro-

gram,” Dr. Book said.

For more information about the services provided at The Children's Hospital, visit www.thechildrenshospital.org.

For more information about eosinophilic esophagitis and other eosinophil-associated disorders, please visit www.apfed.org.

Kristen Lindsay is an intern at Children's Hospital.

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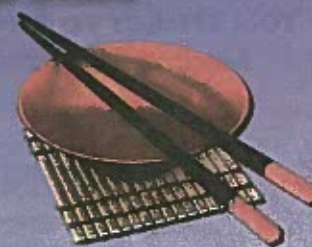
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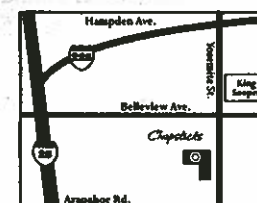
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