A-T Ease Foundation
FOCUS ON THE HOPE

We need your help...

Ataxia-Telangiectasia is a rare genetic disorder affecting children. It is progressive and debilitating; causing cancers, immune system deficiencies and neurological deterioration.

There is no cure for A-T at the present time

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What is A-T?

First identified in 1957, Ataxia-Telangiectasia ("A-T") is a rare genetic disorder that attacks children. It is a degenerative, multi-system disease that affects the neurological and immune systems of children that carry two copies of a defective A-T gene. Although an estimated 2.5 million U.S. residents carry the A-T gene, it is considered a recessive genetic disorder because carriers do not exhibit symptoms. Even more significant, two unsuspecting carriers have a 25% chance of bearing a child with A-T with each pregnancy. Little is known about the disease and misdiagnoses are common.

The gene which is responsible for A-T interacts with cell proteins to repair DNA. When this gene is mutated, it is unable to send signals to repair damaged DNA which results in the progressive breakdown in an A-T child's systems.

The outlook for these children is forbidding.

A-T is cruel and insidious. Early signs appear around the age of two, when a child with A-T begins to slur words and lose their balance. The disease progressively attacks the child's immune and neurological systems while gradually causing loss of muscle control. Children with A-T lose their ability to walk, talk, read, and play games. Many use a wheelchair by adolescence. Cruelly, they are trapped in a body that progressively fails them. Many A-T victims die before their 20th birthday.

Because they are 1,000 times more likely than the average child to contract leukemia or lymphoma, cancer is a common cause of death. Pneumonia, often contracted because of recurring respiratory infections, caused by the breakdown of the immune system, is also a culprit.

Our Story

In 2001 we received some grave news: two precious boys had been diagnosed with an incurable, debilitating, and rare genetic disorder.

Together with friends and family, we formed A-T Ease Foundation to assist children with A-T and their families, to educate the public about A-T, and, through its generosity, to help fund related research programs throughout the world.

A-T Ease consists entirely of committed volunteers dedicated to finding a cure. Monies raised are applied toward our mission and not toward paying salaries.

A-T does not discriminate by race, gender or ethnicity

How Does A-T Affect You?

A-T exhibits features that are of major concern in medicine today: cancer susceptibility, immune deficiency, progressive neurological deterioration, and premature aging.

- 10% of A-T patients develop cancer including leukemias and lymphomas.
- A-T patients suffer from progressive breakdown of the immune system that is relevant to other immunodeficiencies including AIDS.
- A-T patients experience degeneration of brain cells similar to individuals suffering from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

Ataxia-Telangiectasia

Ay-TACK-see-uh Teh-LAN-jick-TAY-sha

Ataxia means lack of muscular control. Telangiectases are tiny red spider veins which appear in the eyes and on the cheeks and ears when exposed to the sun's rays.

Our Hope for a Cure

There is no cure for A-T at the present time. Treatments are severely limited because children with A-T do not respond to common antibiotics and experience extreme sensitivity to radiation. Current therapies focus on alleviating symptoms through speech therapy, immune system injections, and high-dose vitamins, but with limited results.

There is, however,
reason for hope.

Developments in gene therapy and improved understanding of the human genome hold promise for A-T victims. Existing A-T research programs are underway around the world that focus on genetic and other treatments. These include the prevention of neurological decline and cancers, early detection and nutritional strategies, and physical and speech therapies. A greater understanding of what causes A-T, and finding a cure, could give A-T victims their lives back and help solve the mysteries of countless fatal ailments.

Our Mission

A-T Ease Foundation was created to:

- Build awareness of A-T.
- Raise funds to sponsor research into the treatment of, and finding a cure for, A-T.
- Educate the general public and the medical community about A-T.
- Provide A-T children and their families with resources for medical treatment and support services.

Children *with A-T are counting on us* **- YOU** *and* **ME**

Ways In Which You Can Help

- Donate Directly to A-T Ease Foundation
- Be a Corporate Sponsor
- Organize an A-T Ease Fundraising Event
- Spread the Word
- Remember Corporate Matching Gift Programs
- Introduce us to Organizations who Might Support our Mission
- Volunteer Your Time or Services
- Donate in Memory of Friends and Loved Ones or as a Gift for a Special Occasion

The success of our efforts will bring hope and encouragement to families who are desperate for a breakthrough.

Where Your Money Will Go

- Fund Existing and Other Groundbreaking A-T Research Programs
- Provide Assistance to Children with A-T and Their Families
- Raise Awareness of A-T

We are asking for your generosity now. There is no time to waste. A charitable donation to A-T Ease Foundation will go a long way toward continuing research for a cure and treatment of A-T.

A-T Ease Foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

EVERY DOLLAR RAISED WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST A-T

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