



## At just 8 years old, Erin is battling a life-long disease that almost went undiagnosed.

Although today she behaves like any child her age – energetic and full of laughter – Erin’s childhood was interrupted by a painful and activity-limiting condition.

Suffering from extreme weight loss and unexplained lack of energy, Erin and her parents traveled to Columbus Children’s Hospital for answers. Within hours, specialists in Children’s Gastroenterology program recognized the symptoms, ordered tests and diagnosed Erin with an autoimmune condition called Crohn’s Disease.

These days, Erin is all smiles during follow-up visits to Children’s Hospital, where she receives expert, research-based care. Now, daily medication allows her to keep the disease under control, so she can focus on being a kid.

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### Facts about Crohn’s Disease

- Crohn’s disease is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that affects the gastrointestinal tract.
- Symptoms include: poor weight gain, weight loss, diminished appetite, diarrhea, abdominal pain.
- While Crohn’s is a chronic condition with no known cure, it can be controlled with medication, nutrition supplements and surgery.
- Each year, Children’s diagnoses and treats around 400 Crohn’s patients from Ohio and surrounding states.

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