

★ Little girl with a rare disorder gets a big win

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Little Girl with a Rare Disorder Gets a Big Win

We all want to make our mark on the world... When I started Lume, I had a lofty goal of changing people's lives.

That may sound like a stretch since Lume is a deodorant. But in my practice as a gynecologist, I saw how odor concerns could affect women's confidence. It's a very sensitive topic and one a lot of us are embarrassed to talk about. We have enough to worry about in our day-to-day lives, and odor shouldn't have to be one of them!

I had a feeling that Lume could change people's lives for the better, but I didn't realize quite how life-changing it could be.

Shortly after we launched in October 2017, I received a message from Honey Stecken, the mother of 5-year-old Maren. What I was about to read would swell my heart and plant my feet straight on the ground:

"This is an amazing find! I ordered this and tried it on myself. The cream is amazingly effective.

However, I wasn't trying Lume out for me, I was trying it out on behalf of my 5 year old daughter. She has a rare genetic condition in which her medicines cause her to have...well, a cloud of embarrassing odor around her...

Many kids with metabolic diseases have issues with odor. In our rare disease community there are fragile children who are even bullied and excluded because of it.

Since trying Lume, the smell cannot be detected. I feel like my daughter and my family have gained a piece of normalcy and dignity back. I feel like other parents in our disease community are going to appreciate this so much.

Thank you so much for Lume!"



Maren was diagnosed with a rare metabolic condition called propionic acidemia when she was just 2 weeks old. Her condition requires a life-saving amino acid supplement called L-carnitine. Without it, her body won't be able to break down protein, which would result in brain damage and organ failure.

Unfortunately, this life-saving supplement also has one big side effect that's hard to ignore: It causes her to smell like rotten fish. Honey described it as, "walking into a fresh seafood market." As you can imagine, this caused people to look twice and shift away from her.

Maren's parents tried everything. They used fisherman's soap. They sent wipes, body sprays, and extra clothes with her to school. They tried bathing her multiple times a day.

Doctors who were caring for Maren had nothing to offer either. Clinical trials she had participated in led to the same question: Is there any way to control the odor?

The answer was always, "No."

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