# 7-Year-Old Boy with Rare Skin Conditions Faces Daily Struggles but Holds onto Hope for Surgery



Carter Padelford, a 7-year-old boy from Las Vegas, Nevada, battles two ultra-rare skin conditions: lamellar ichthyosis and ectropion. These conditions prevent Carter from closing his eyes, even during sleep, and cover his body in scaly, dry skin, severely impacting his daily activities and playtime.

Born in November 2016, Carter's skin was notably red and tight. Diagnosed with these conditions three days after birth, Carter's skin rapidly produces more cells than it can shed, leading to thick, plate-like scales. His mother, Shai Bresee, applies special moisturizers to his body at least seven times daily to manage his symptoms. Additionally, Carter has been diagnosed with autism.

Lamellar ichthyosis affects approximately 1 in 100,000 people in the United States and has no cure. Treatment typically involves lifelong use of moisturizers and sometimes medications to reduce scaling. In Carter's case, the conditions also cause ectropion, which exposes his corneas and affects his eyelids, further complicating his situation.

To address some of his symptoms, Carter is scheduled for skin graft surgery on his eyelids. This procedure aims to help him close his eyes comfortably for the first time.

Carter's family has set up a GoFundMe campaign to help cover the surgery costs, raising $19,728 so far. They plan to travel to La Jolla, California, for the surgery, which might alleviate some of Carter's discomfort and pain. For further treatment, the family explored the use of cannabis oils, which previously helped reduce Carter’s scaling and improve his overall skin condition.

Despite the ongoing challenges, Carter remains hopeful, looking forward to his upcoming surgery and potential relief.