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GORYEB CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S JOEL ROSH, MD, TO BE FEATURED ON DISCOVERY HEALTH CHANNEL ABOUT RARE CONDITION

Morristown, NJ March 2008 -- [Joel Rosh, MD](#), director of pediatric gastroenterology at the Goryeb Children's Hospital, part of Atlantic Health, will explain a condition called hereditary tyrosinemia, a rare genetic metabolic disorder that causes liver failure in children, on the Discovery Health Channel's "Mystery Diagnosis" program. One of Dr. Rosh's patients, a 12-year-old West Paterson resident, will be the subject of the story. This segment appears in the second half of the episode titled, "A Deadly Cough," will appear throughout March on Discovery Health. [Check local listings for the channel.](#)

Dr. Rosh began treating Danielle Barckett when the child was just a 2-month-old infant. Her parents, Pam Barckett of West Paterson and Dave Barckett of Little Falls, grew concerned when she seemed unable to digest formula. They brought her to a pediatrician when they noticed her belly was distended. A team of specialists had tried to determine what made the child so sick and believed she had a hernia, but this was quickly ruled out.

It was at Morristown Memorial Hospital, where Dr. Rosh observed, tested, and treated Danielle, that it was determined that she was in liver failure. Dr. Rosh then diagnosed Danielle with hereditary tyrosinemia, which means that Danielle was born missing an enzyme that breaks down protein. Because she could not digest proteins correctly, toxins accumulated that poisoned her liver, causing complete liver failure. Danielle was placed on a strict diet and became one of the first 20 people placed on a then-experimental drug to help her body digest protein. Hereditary tyrosinemia is a disease that affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States. Symptoms include fever, diarrhea, failure to grow at a normal rate, and an abnormally large liver. The disease can lead to death if not treated.

"This was an unusual case because of the severity of Danielle's liver disease," said Dr. Rosh. "The 'Mystery Diagnosis' program takes us through the steps in making a difficult, uncommon diagnosis and leaves viewers with the message for parents to trust their instincts about their children. At the Goryeb Children's Hospital, we take a family-centered approach to diagnosis and treatment and work with families to help produce the best outcome for the child."

Pam Barckett said her daughter is cautious with her diet, but as a pre-teen, does test her limits. Danielle cannot eat dairy, meat, fish, peanuts, or any food that is high in protein. Instead, her mother orders food specifically from low-protein manufacturers. "I've learned to ask the question, 'Why?'" Pam Barckett said. "A mother's instincts are incredibly powerful. If any parent feels there is something not quite right about their child, ask questions."

Dr. Rosh has been grant funded and is widely published in his field. His primary clinical and research interests are pediatric inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis), celiac disease, the Irritable Bowel Syndrome and pediatric liver disease. Dr. Rosh has been a frequent local, national and international speaker on topics in his field of expertise. He is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition*, serves as a reviewer for various major scientific journals and has been asked to serve on many national professional committees including his serving as the National Chairman for Pediatric Education for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, the Vice Chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics GI practice committee and the National Pediatric Endoscopy committee.

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