

Me...Dialysis...NO way!

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ME...DIALYSIS...
NO WAY!

JOLANDE WIJKS

Every sick person has a history; especially people who are dependent on dialysis. Further analysis of their history often reveals dialysis was not needed if only they had used their medications properly. In some cases, dialysis could have been completely prevented. This is for several reasons as evidenced in the following short, practical, and honest stories:

Ignorance

Anxiety

Pride

Social deprivation (poverty)

Nonchalance/medication noncompliance

Denial et cetera...

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1. I Hate My Mother!

Only after the midwife gave Erwin a slap on his buttocks, did he begin crying. It soon became clear that Erwin barely had any wet diapers after his birth. Following the doctor's examination of the baby, he told the new mother there was a congenital kidney abnormality. She should ensure Erwin always remained under strict control of the pediatrician because this disease could easily be controlled with medication. Erlisa, who was barely seventeen years old, had not even finished her schooling because of the teenage pregnancy, lack of money and her social conditions. She didn't understand half of what the doctor explained to her about her baby. She came from a very poor family. Her boyfriend, Isaac, who was almost as young as she was, did not even realize he had become a father and what that meant. When Erwin was a month old, she brought him to Isaac and his parents, left him there and disappeared. Erwin grew up with his father and his grandparents.

Erlisa had abandoned her baby of a few weeks because she couldn't handle the situation. Isaac was only an eighteen year old teenager without a sense of responsibility. He was also still in school. Never again did Erlisa look back at her baby. She had also kept a deep secret about Erwin regularly requiring doctor checkups due to his malfunctioning kidneys. No one, not even his father, was aware of this. Only when Erwin was 20, after he became seriously ill and was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit to immediately begin dialysis, did his mother come out of nowhere and tell her story. The evil was

unfortunately already irreversible; Erwin had never received the necessary treatment and medication, so he had to start dialysis in his twentieth year.

Erwin, now 27 years old, has been on dialysis for seven years. He hates his mother from the bottom of his heart. “Thanks to my mother, I now need dialysis to stay alive. I hate her. I don’t consider her to be my mother. My grandma and grandpa are my parents. They have taken good care of me,” stated Erwin, who wipes away a tear while telling funny stories about his grandparents and father.