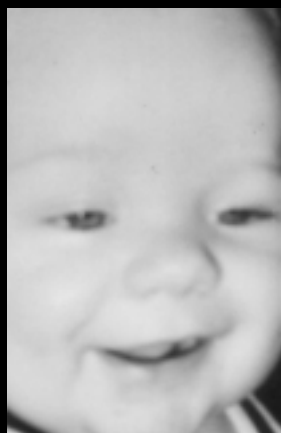


Help the March of Dimes Expand Newborn Screening in California

The difference is Black and Wyvill

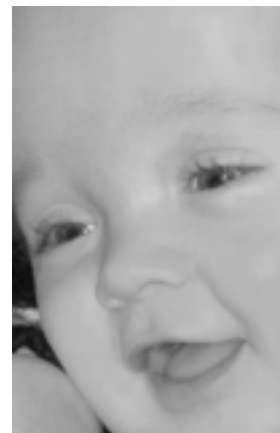


Zachary Black & Zachary Wyvill

"If not diagnosed, who knows where Zachary would be today."

—Chad Black, Father

Screened at birth? YES
Born: May 16, 2003
Place: Sonora, CA
Parents: Bridget & Chad



"If my child had been born in another state...he would have been saved."

—Cindy Wyvill, Mother

Screened at birth? NO
Born: April 4, 2003
Place: Walnut Creek, CA
Parents: Cindy & Dave

Disorder: Glutaric Acidemia, Type I (GA-I)

Often misdiagnosed as Cerebral Palsy, GA-I causes brain damage in children due to an acidic environment in the blood caused by high levels of protein. The disorder can be treated when detected through newborn screening by changing the child's diet before a crisis occurs.

Zachary Black was one of 456,000 California babies who participated in a pilot program to screen for more genetic disorders at birth. That decision may have saved his life.

Zachary Black's typical day

- Eats Lucky Charms, his favorite cereal
- Watches The Rugrats, his favorite TV show
- Takes a nap
- Waves bye to daddy when he leaves for work
- Plays in the yard with Trixie, the family dog

Four days after he was born, his parents got a call from the doctor saying Zachary needed to come in for more tests. There was a chance he had a genetic disorder even though he looked and acted fine. The tests came back positive for GA-I and Zachary was placed on medication and a special diet. That was the only adjustment needed for Zachary to remain healthy.

Chad and Bridget are grateful Zachary was detected and saved a lifetime of medical problems.

Zachary Wyvill's typical day

- Fed through a tube eight times
- Takes medication 17 times
- Cannot roll over, sit, stand, or crawl
- Participates in physical therapy
- Requires an in-home nurse to monitor his condition

Zachary Wyvill was not offered expanded screening under the California expanded newborn screening pilot program. At six months old, Zachary experienced a crisis due to undetected GA-I. During the crisis he lost virtually

all of his motor skills. It took two weeks for doctors to make a correct diagnosis and begin treatment. Zachary was in the hospital for more than two months before he could be safely taken home.

So far, Zachary has used over \$500,000 of his \$1 million health insurance policy. When that money runs out Dave and Cindy fear reliance on the state for Zachary's lifelong costs for medication, therapy and special education.

In June 2003 California stopped offering screening for 25 disorders like GA-I. Today, California offers screening for only 4 disorders — lowest among the 50 states.



Join the March of Dimes Advocacy Network and tell your elected officials you want California to offer expanded newborn screening today!

For information, contact: Keith Nash, State Director of Public Affairs (916) 922-1913 or knash@marchofdimes.com