

Patient Story 5: (Mary Anne Hammond)



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- I am the **parent** of a beautiful **22 year old daughter** who has a heart defect, GI issues, a profound intellectual disability and severe autism spectrum disorder. Kailey is completely non-verbal and functions cognitively at about a 12 month old level. She depends on us for all of her daily living skills and is both a tremendous gift and a tremendous responsibility. She takes many medications to manage behavioral and health conditions. Balancing the side effects of numerous medications is a reality of most families who have loved ones with co-morbidities.
- Informed, understandable information is critical in families making good choices in regard to medications and treatments.
- As a parent, a **community advocate** and an **education coordinator for Autism**, I am excited that in this PCORI project we are working to look at genetic information to help predict patient outcomes. Hopefully, the knowledge gained will serve as power for those trying to make the best decision for treatment for their loved ones.