

A Mother's Story

An Axilase Testimonial

Life is one big roller coaster ride. Sometimes you can't see the turns and terrifying dips before you are in the moment. In the end, you are glad you went through it, but during the experience you are terrified. Parenting has those same moments. As a parent you want your child to be happy, healthy, safe and secure. When one of those attributes is missing, you try to figure out how to correct the situation.

My daughter Casey, over the course of her young life, has had to deal with several moves and with that comes making new friends. This is not always easy.

We moved to New Jersey when she was in the fourth grade. I remember her first day of school. She looked so sad and terrified going inside. She knew no one. I decided to do what I always did when she was in a new place, join her for lunch. When I showed up, she was sitting with a large group of girls and was having a great time. She made some great friends for the year and then we moved. Again.

Mt. Olive wasn't as easy. The children here have been friends since they were born. No one has lived or travelled outside of the NY, NJ, PA area. Casey lived in Florida, Virginia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Parsippany NJ. In Mt. Olive NJ, fifth grade goes by and then its middle school. Casey wears very boyish sporty clothes. The girls don't like that.

At some point in middle school, hormones kicking in, she had no choice but to wear regular t-shirts and sweatshirts. She had a problem with excessive sweating. Neither she nor I knew it was a condition. In fact she never told me that was the reason why she insisted she wear loose t-shirts and sweatshirts. Of course, I as the mom, was thrilled she didn't want to wear the tight tank tops all the other girls were wearing. Since I am a personal trainer, I am in sweats and sweatshirts most days. Some of the kids commented in elementary school that she dressed like me. I had no idea there was more to what she was wearing.

In the end, the girls were tough. I ended up homeschooling her for 2 years of middle school. High school is a bit different and since she is a jock, she decided to go back into the school system her freshman year of high school. I had a talk with her and told her that her life would be easier if she dressed somewhere in the middle of sweats and sweatshirts compared to jeans and tank tops. So we bought some jeans and some nice tops.

It turns out, as soon as she enters school, she profusely sweats under her arms. She has huge wet rings on her shirts. She couldn't even wear all the pretty new tops we had just bought. Because of her profuse sweating, she had no choice but to wear sweatshirts every day.

Meanwhile, I just think she likes to wear sweatshirts. I have no idea what is really going on. Finally, in her sophomore year, she tells me she sweats all the time. Even when she is sitting in a cold classroom, she sweats under her arms and her shirt is soaking. She can feel the water running down her side from her underarms. Still, I don't google the issue, because I just didn't get it.

I take her to the pediatrician. They recommend a prescription deodorant. That does nothing. They don't recommend anything else. It's not until her junior year of high school, that my son tells her his friend has the same problem and he might get Botox shots. Now I'm curious. Why would a child get Botox shots? At this point, I still haven't gotten the severity of the issue.

Casey is a low-key quiet person. I should have known to ask more questions and I regret I was slack in that respect. I start researching. I realize this condition actually has a name: Hyperhidrosis. Wow! Lots of people suffer with this. Hmm. It dawns on me, my husband has this as well. He had no idea there was anything he could do about it. He had lived with this condition for his whole life since puberty. His mother has the condition as well. This is amazing. It's hereditary and I didn't put this together.

So, off we go to a dermatologist in network to give Casey the botox shots for hyperhidrosis. Even the insurance covers the cost. Great! Casey gets the shots. They are supposed to work for 6 months. After one month, she says "I'm sweating again." So, I called the doctor. He says that she doesn't respond to the treatment and there is nothing more he can do for her. At this point, I know from my research that the only alternative is to do the surgery where they cut the nerves. I had read about this surgery and discussed it with Casey. We both agreed that this was not an option because the sweating just relocates to a different area on the body.

What should we do? I talk to Casey about the Reflections Center. I have had several treatments at the center for minor cosmetic things such as laser hair removal. I trust the center and Dr. Chasin. I suggest we visit Dr. Chasin and see if maybe he can administer the Botox treatment in a way that will work for her. Casey agrees as we have nothing to lose.

Dr. Chasin right of the bat says he has seen this many, many times over the years. He has treated hundred's of patients with this same problem. He has NEVER had someone not respond to the Botox treatment and the treatment

lasts 6 months. He is sincere and optimistic. He even says to call him in a week and let him know how the treatment worked. He also said, if she was still sweating we should come in for another dose of the Botox. Well, as luck would have it, Casey was his first patient to not respond to Botox. So, we went back 3 weeks later and he injected another dose of Botox.

He was very reassuring. He told Casey that he WOULD figure this out. He was on her side. Her eyes would well up with tears as she would explain when her underarms would start pouring out the sweat. I would get chocked up too! Dr. Chasin and his assistant were always very compassionate. He really felt Casey's pain. He asked us to call in a week and let him know if the second treatment worked. It didn't.

We went back for another consultation. He suggested Dysport, a substance that should produce the same results as Botox, but was formulated with different ingredients. He had to order Dysport because he didn't normally use this brand. So, once the Dysport was in, we went back. Dr. Chasin injected Casey's underarms with the Dysport.

At this visit he was even more impressive than the previous ones. He was one step ahead and said something to the effect of.... if this doesn't work I have one more idea. He asked me to do research on Axilase (lasering in the under arm area) and he asked me to call him to discuss what I found. He said he would also do his research and contact other doctors who performed this procedure. If the Dysport did not work, he was going to further his investigation and fix Casey's problem.

Well..... let me say..... it is a rare....and I mean rare.... occurrence that a doctor goes above and beyond his normal everyday work to figure out one person's problem! He was committed to Casey as her doctor. To that I applaud and salute him. This is what every patient hopes for, but never gets - a doctor who WILL go the extra mile to figure out how to SOLVE your problem.

Casey was not the textbook case. He also suggested I see an endocrinologist to make sure nothing unusual was going on. The endocrinologist reported nothing unusual. A few weeks went by after Casey had the Dysport treatment and once again she is sweating. I call Dr. Chasin's office to let them know that Casey's treatment did not work and that I would like to discuss with Dr. Chasin any other alternatives.

A few weeks later the office calls me and proceeds to tell me that Dr. Chasin flew to Germany to work with a doctor there who had been doing laser armpit treatments for several years. He wanted to work with the doctor in person to make sure that his service that he was providing was exceptional. He could

have done the procedure without spending time in Germany; however, Dr. Chasin goes the extra mile. He wanted to make sure, doubly sure, that he knew exactly, precisely what he was doing.

Casey and I go in for a consultation. He offered to even perform her surgery for free if she agreed to be filmed. For me, this was great. My husband lost his job for a second time in 2 years, so for us money is really tight. Casey is so shy however, that she said to me that she had \$7000 in her savings account and that it was worth it to her to spend half of it on fixing this problem. I'm with her on this. As her mom, I would have loved to pay for this, but our financial situation, like many other Americans, was not cooperating. Sometimes you have to look at what you have and not at what you don't have. Casey has the money. So be it.

Dr. Chasin re-arranges his schedule, he comes in early, to do Casey's procedure. Since she is paying, she would like it done and healed by her senior prom. In we go, I'm nervous. I have complete confidence in Dr. Chasin's abilities as far as performing this procedure, but I'm worried Casey will have spent half of her savings on something that doesn't work.

We arrive, bright and early. Dr. Chasin comes in to talk to Casey and tells her that she better not wreck his 100% stats! She goes into the room where they do the procedure and I sit in the waiting room. Dr. Chasin comes out to let me know she did great and she would be out soon. We set up an appointment for a one week follow up. Dr. Chasin did an exceptional job. Casey had very little discomfort after the procedure. She slept well that night which in my opinion says a lot.

The next day, she is numb so we are not sure if it worked. The weekend goes by, no sweating. The real test is when she goes to school. Monday rolls around. She has her FIRST DAY OF ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL WITHOUT SWEATING!!!! This is a miracle. Since she has a compression shirt on, she is still wearing a t-shirt, but still, she is not sweating, not even a little bit.

We check back in for a one week follow up. Casey and I are hesitant that this is a truly fixed problem. Will the sweating come back in a month? Is she not sweating because she still has numbness? In walks Dr. Chasin and he says, if it didn't work, we would know by now. The odds are insignificant that you will sweat again.

I'm relieved. As I tell Dr. Chasin that I am grateful for what he has done and how he didn't give up on my daughter, Casey gets all teary eyed. He changed her life. He impacted her life at a profound level. She will never be the same. He took the time to figure her out and fix her issue.

Finally, she can wear whatever she wants to wear and doesn't have to look at other girls and think about how lucky they are to just be able to pick out anything. She is a senior, graduating and going to prom. Dr. Chasin has given her something no other doctor was willing to. This is the reason why I am writing this memoir. Special people deserve recognition and Dr. Chasin is a very special person to me and my daughter. Thank You for going the extra mile!!!!