

The Young Father's Imperfect Gift of Life

By Ed Ruden, MD

He gave part of his liver to his Infant Son ...
I was there at the Start of this Ugly Bilioous Disease
Unfortunate "Draw of the Straw" plagued by Biliary Atresia
Paternal "Fois Gras" Sucked out ... but nurturing the young babe and
recapturing this childhood vigor and joy
Yet, the Sequellae of the Donor Impairs DAD's life Abysmally
Robbing the prime of Paternal 20s
HOLES/CAVITIES/Abdominal Fenestrations years after "The Taking"
Haunt him
Swiss Cheese of the Peritoneum and Rectus Abdominus
This Vaporizes his Vitality—Suspends his LIFE
Nonetheless, I know you Treasure the Gift you Gave and I honor you
In your Ultimate HOLY Sacrifice ...

Hypochondriacal Atopic Derm Adolescent

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His body is like crocodile skin – every Angstrom of it
A scaly mass of crustaceous keratin
A warty six-foot toad of a teen
Intense use of fluoridated steroid ointments,
Petrolatum baths, antihistamines q4h, and
Newer Immunomodulator agents have little effect on his intense pruritis
The true cause of his eczema lies not in the superficial layers of his body;
but deep in his somaticizing mind
The "boy" tortures himself from within
Perseverating in his brain about this malady or that
"If only there were another blood test," "A Radiographique"
"A serum porcelain level to pinpoint my illness!"
He stammers/agitates
I present this theory – "The mind-skin" gap!
If you "soothe" your mind, you will surely "soothe"
your alligator dermis
In theory, he takes it in but never really engulfs the reality of his tortured cerebrum
Fitfully, the young lad wallows in his "crustiness" and painstakingly
relentlessly scratching as he exits my exam room!