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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILDREN'S MERCY PARENT TO BE TWITTER GUEST DURING DAUGHTER'S SURGERY

Mom to "tweet" about a parent's experience as her child receives surgery

Kansas City, MO – August 11, 2009 – At 10:30 A.M. CT, Wednesday, August 12, 2009, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics will welcome a guest parent to "tweet" about what it's like to have a child go through surgery.

The surgery will be performed on a 13-year-old, Caitlyn, who suffers from Crohn's disease, and is also diagnosed with growth failure due to the disease. Caitlyn will receive a new, minimally invasive technique known as laparoscopic jejunal resection of the bowel or bowel resection, with just a single incision through the belly button. After exhausting all traditional treatments for her Crohn's disease, the minimally invasive surgical procedure is one of Caitlyn's last resorts to put the disease in remission. The new, minimally invasive technique involves less pain and a faster recovery time versus colon surgery, which would require a large incision in the abdomen and longer recovery time.

Caitlyn's mother, Shari, will update the [Children's Mercy Twitter site](#) throughout the three hour surgery which will be performed by [Shawn St. Peter, MD](#). Shari is very involved with organizations that support families affected by Crohn's disease, given Caitlyn and her older brother both suffers from the disease.

About Crohn's Disease

Known collectively as inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are painful, chronic illnesses affect approximately 1.4 million Americans, including some 140,000 children under the age of 18.

Crohn's disease is a painful, incurable illness that may inflame the small and large intestines and causes diarrhea, abdominal cramps, weight loss, and numerous complications, such as bowel obstruction and abscesses. Most of those affected are young, including teenagers and young children. Approximately 20 percent of patients have another family member affected by the disease, and families frequently share a similar pattern of disease.

Currently at Children's Mercy, we follow approximately 430 patients diagnosed with IBD. We've seen a definite increase in the number of children being diagnosed and continue to diagnose 100 children a year.

About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo. is one of the nation's top, pediatric medical centers. Recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center for excellence in nursing services, and ranked in 2009 by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals" for 5 specialties, Children's Mercy provides outstanding pediatric care for children from birth through the age of 18. With a 314-bed facility, Level IIIc neonatal intensive care unit, Level I pediatric trauma center, faculty of 600 pediatricians, and [40 subspecialties](#), it is one of the largest and most comprehensive pediatric medical centers in the country. In addition to a mission of caring for children regardless of their family's ability to pay, Children's Mercy is actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. More information about Children's Mercy and

its research can be found on our web site at ChildrensMercy.org. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#).

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