

**Two Families.
Two Genetic Syndromes.
One Bond.**



2025 National EHDI Conference



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Personal Disclaimer

Personal choices to pursue genetic testing don't indicate a desire to change the outcome, but a desire to better understand how to manage the diagnosis and prepare for the future



Teri Urban

- Parent of a deaf teenager
- Virginia Hands & Voices
- Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss
- CHAMPS-DHH Program



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Alicia Rodriguez

Alicia Rodriguez

- Parent to four boys
- Virginia Hands & Voices
- Garden Educator
- Yoga and Book Lover



Learning Objectives



Understand genetic testing from a family perspective



Identify three benefits of genetic testing and how it can impact a family's journey



Recognize the lived experiences of raising a child with Connexin 26 and Pendred Syndrome



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Benefits of Genetic Testing

Recognize
medical
needs

Parental
guilt

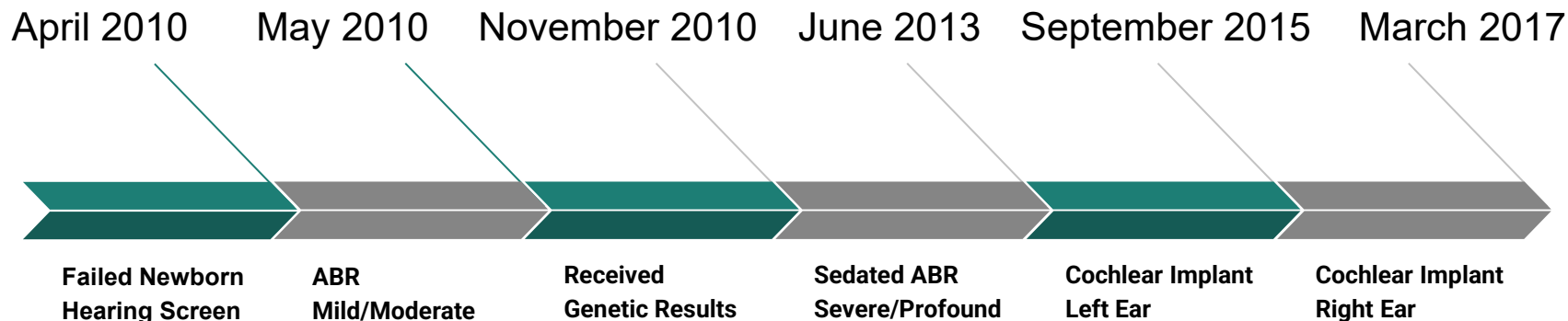
Prepare
for the
future

Non-
invasive
procedure

Support
siblings

Understand
diagnosis

GJB2 / Connexin 26



Pendred Syndrome / SLC26A4

What is Pendred Syndrome?

- Caused by lack of protein “Pendrin”
- Possibly affects hearing, thyroid and kidney function
- All our children had 1 in 4 chance of having the diagnosis
- Only 1 in 10,000 are diagnosed with Pendred Syndrome

Theo's Journey

- March 2018 - ENT appointment
- October 2018 - Geneticist appointment
- November 2018 - Follow-Up Call and Diagnosis
- Theo's journey with EVA - Progressive and fluctuating



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Navigating Results



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