

The MSPress Journal

Vol 6 | No. 1 | 2019

Poetry

The Triple A's of Ectodermal Dysplasia

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Alopecia, Anhidrosis and Abnormal nails and teeth,
The triple A's of Ectodermal Dysplasia make up the sum of "me."

These words may sound alarming to a person passing by,
"How terrible! How unfortunate! Oh, you poor thing!" I hear them cry.

Although these sentiments might be said with good intention,
They certainly do not change the fact that I was born with a genetic mutation.

I gently run my fingers through my brittle hair and grieve,
I will never grow luscious locks; my reality is that gaping holes are all I receive.

People with healthy bodies take for granted a summer stroll,
But for me, Anhidrosis proves a deadly threat as overheating takes its toll.

Countless strangers gawk in astonishment at my missing teeth,
If they only knew how greatly I desire to make my smile complete.

Oh, how I long for a cure to save me from my eternal diagnosis,
But, alas, there is no relief, no reprieve; my ectodermal dysplasia is relentless.

Despite my outward appearance and my physical mutations,
A spirit lives inside of me bursting with capabilities far beyond any limitations.

My life is no less significant, no less spectacular, no less splendid,
I have worth the same as you, even if my worth might not be readily flaunted.