

My Life With Cystic Fibrosis - A Series of Haikus With Commentary

Echogenic bowel was the first indication that I might have cystic fibrosis. It is when the bowel shines brighter than normal during an ultrasound. I was subsequently diagnosed in utero.

Shiny

A shiny bowel

The first sign I had CF

I am still shiny

When I was just born, the respiratory therapist used an inflatable mask to clap me when she demonstrated chest percussion therapy for my parents for the first time. My parents told me I cried. They told me that they cried too.

CPT

A mask to clap me

I was too tiny for hands

Mom, Dad and I cried

I haven't let cystic fibrosis stand in the way of what I want to do. I had to audition to be admitted to Bak Middle School of the Arts. I didn't pass the audition the first time I tried out in 6th grade. I tried again in 8th grade. I passed my audition this second time around and was admitted.

If at First You Don't Succeed

I was unpracticed

I practiced and got better

Passed the second time

I have a lot of family that lives near me – aunts, uncles, grandparents, great-grandparents, and those more ambiguous relations where you need to add the once or twice removed business. I have had to stay overnight in the hospital several times. Usually my parents stay with me, but many of my other relatives all have at one time or another stayed with me or visited. They usually bring me food.

Hospital Food

Are you coming here

Can you bring me some spring rolls

The food here is gross

Earlier this year I required 6 months of home IVs to get rid of an atypical mycobacterium. Even though my sister got rid of the same bug in two months, the IVs didn't work for me.

Mycobacterium

Atypical bug

Why do you like me so much

Antibiotics