

Writing Assignment #3

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Summary of Article

The news article from *TurnTo10* discusses the life of a survivor living with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare genetic disorder often referred to as “butterfly syndrome”. The article explains that EB is caused by mutations in genes responsible for maintaining the structural integrity of the skin. Because of these mutations, the layers of the skin do not stay connected as they should. As a result, even minor friction or light contact can cause blisters, wounds, or serious skin damage. The individual featured in the article has dealt with this condition their whole life, and has experienced lifelong challenges associated with EB. This includes chronic pain, frequent wound care, and increased risk of infections.

The article also explains that there is no cure for EB, but there are treatments focused on managing symptoms through pain control, protective bandaging, and infection prevention. In addition to the physical challenges, the article also emphasizes that there is a financial burden associated with the condition. The cost of medical supplies and care for this condition can be very high and is not always covered by insurance. Overall, the article not only explains the genetic basis of the condition, but also gives insight into the real life impact it has on individuals. The person featured in the article is now working to raise awareness and support others living with EB.

Evaluation Using a Scientific Review

The information in the article is generally accurate when compared to scientific reviews. A review article by Mariath et al. (2020) supports the claim made in the news article regarding genetic and clinical aspects of EB. According to the Mariath review, EB is a group of inherited disorders caused by mutations in genes that encode proteins needed for maintaining the structure

of the skin. These mutations weaken the connections between skin layers, leading to blistering even after minimal touch. This supports the article's explanation of why individuals with EB experience extreme skin fragility and injuries. The scientific review also mentions that there is no cure for EB and that treatment is focused on symptom management, such as what was mentioned in the *TurnTo10* news article.

While the press article's main points are accurate, it simplifies the scientific details so the general audience may understand it better. For example, the news article does not go into details about the genes involved in the different types of EB. However, the information in the news article is supported by the scientific review, it simply makes the information more accessible. Overall, the article provides an accurate representation of EB in a more simplified way compared to the scientific review.

References

- Mariath, L. M., Santin, J. T., Schuler-Faccini, L., & Kiszewski, A. E. (2020). Inherited epidermolysis bullosa: Update on the clinical and genetic aspects. *Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia*, 95(5), 551–569. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.abd.2020.05.001>
- Pilcher, J. (2026, March 14). “*Butterfly Syndrome*” survivor works to help others who have rare genetic disorder. WJAR.
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