

February 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a PANDAS/PANS provider here in Oregon and can attest that PANDAS/PANS is a misunderstood, under appreciated, multifactorial disease that stems from autoimmune against the basal ganglia of the brain. We have limited effective therapies available for this patient population. Most often, these children are funneled into psychiatry and are never fully evaluated appropriately.

For some children, it is effective to simply treat the strep infection and the autoimmune symptoms resolve. Yet for other children they don't achieve full resolution of their OCD, paranoia, psychosis, and hallucinations until they receive appropriate gamma globulin therapies to modulate the autoimmune process. It is often necessary to use antibiotics, psychiatric medications and IVIG in combination.

At this time, IVIG is only for those families that are privileged enough to be able to pay for the therapy out of pocket, at \$10-15k per treatment. We are neglecting a large portion of the patient population simply due to lack of resources. This is unjust and inhumane and leaves already struggling families with no effective options, let alone curative options.

There are commonly co-morbid conditions such as mast cell activation syndrome and common variable immune deficiency that accompany PANDAS/PANS. IVIG is an appropriate therapy for all those conditions. I urge you to consider mandating insurance coverage for IVIG in the case of PANDAS/PANS.

I have seen suicidal children with severe OCD, motor tics, anxiety, paranoia, and hallucinations be fully restored with IVIG and antibiotics. To deny this valuable therapy is nothing short of medical mistreatment. If you've ever seen the pain and terror in these children's eyes, you would help make IVIG financially accessible. The ultimate cost of untreated disease far exceeds the short term cost of IVIG. I am confident you will make the right choice in supporting legislation to adequately treat this disease. If you have any questions, please contact me anytime at [contact@drjanell.com](mailto:contact@drjanell.com).

In good health -

Dr. Janell Payne