



Lymphatic Malformation

Awareness

Hi! My name is Atticus and I was born with lymphatic malformation of my tongue and lower lip. I am a perfectly healthy child. The only thing different about me is that my tongue and lower lip are enlarged. I periodically get treatments on my tongue and lip to make them smaller. I also have a tracheostomy to help me breath while I undergo these treatments. I am a smart, happy, endearing little boy who loves walking outside, playing with my toy cars and my favorite stuffed animal ('sweater cat'), reading my numerous books, and eating (I have quite an appetite!). I smile all the time, love meeting new people, and love to make people laugh! If you want to learn more about lymphatic information, then **turn over this card!**

Lymphatic malformations (LM) are sponge-like collections of abnormal channels and spaces containing clear fluid. With LM, transfer of this fluid is slowed and excess fluid accumulates and dilates the vessels resulting in swelling and enlargement of the affected area. These lesions are most commonly seen in the neck, but can be found anywhere in the body. LMs steadily increase in size. They are thought to be caused by errors in the formation of blood vessels during fetal development. LMs cannot be cured, but can be treated and managed. Common forms of treatment include surgical removal, sclerotherapy, laser therapy, radio frequency ablation, and chemotherapeutic agents. An LM involving the trachea, tongue, or chest can cause difficulty breathing and sometimes a tracheostomy is needed.

"Health Topics." *Lymphatic Malformations*. Cincinnatichildrens.org, Nov.2010|. Web.18Oct.2013. <<http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/health/l/lymphatic/>>