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Teenager nearly dies after rare allergic reaction to EYE DROPS causes her skin to peel off

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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A teenager nearly died when her skin peeled off after she had a one in a million allergic reaction... to eye drops.

Marian Adejokun, 19, from Croydon, was left covered in blisters from head to toe and lost layers of her skin after using a small dose of over the counter medicine Optrex.

She spent more than three weeks in intensive care at the Royal London Hospital where baffled doctors diagnosed her with life threatening medical condition Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

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Marian Adejokun suffered a severe reaction to eye drops, which left her in intensive care for three weeks. She still has to be fed through a tube in her throat

Marian said: 'Everywhere was swollen. My nose was huge and my eyes were so red you could take a spoon and scrape out the blood.'

Marian was prescribed the Optrex eyedrops on January 11 after complaining of an itchy eye.

Her mother Remi applied them before she went to bed but within hours red lumps had appeared all over her body and she was quickly rushed to hospital.

WHAT IS STEVENS JOHNSON SYNDROME?

Stevens Johnson Syndrome (SJS) is a severe adverse reaction to a medication. It was named after two U.S paediatricians who described it in 1922.

It affects around two people per million and is more common among women.

Symptoms include skin rashes, blisters in the mouth, ears and nose and swelling of the eyelids.

If left untreated the condition can result in death. Possible complications include permanent blindness and lung damage.

Once diagnosed doctors will immediately stop the patient taking the offending drug.

Treatment includes IV fluids and high calorie formulas to promote healing. Antibiotics are given when necessary to prevent secondary infections such as sepsis. Pain medications such as morphine can make the patient more comfortable.

Ms Adejokun said: 'Her face was full of blisters, her lips were very swollen and the doctors still didn't know what was going on.

'I was crazy, beyond the worried stage and near to losing my mind. After a week I thought there was no hope but then as she lay on the bed, unable to talk, I said "Marian, you've just made it to university, that's your dream" and she moved her toe.

'Realising she could hear me I started to sing our favourite songs to her. Instead of crying all the time I went to the intensive care unit and danced.'

Student Marian lost so much skin she had to be wrapped in a foil sheet and still has to be fed through a hole in her throat.

Specialist skin experts told Ms Adejokun did not believe her daughter would survive.

She said: 'There were so many blisters on Marian and her skin was just tearing off.

'I saw death knocking at my daughter's door, all because of an eye drop.'

Marian was finally removed from the intensive care unit on February 8. She was allowed home on February 19th and now faces months of hourly moisturising treatment before her skin will fully heal.

But determined Marian, who was born with a hole in her heart and recently had back surgery to cure osteosclerosis, never stopped believing she would pull through.

Doctors have hailed her recovery as a "miracle."

She said: 'When I was in the intensive care unit, crying in pain, all I thought of was coming home.

'I've overcome a lot of in my life. Losing my skin because of an eye drop is just another obstacle I've made it through.'

Marian's rare disease is triggered by severe allergic reactions to medication and an immune system disorder.

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Weird people. you're all so quick to judge all weed smokers on the actions of some people who it disagrees with. but stories like this and you dont call for a ban even though this is stone cold fact (compared to the weed scare stories which aren't fact)

- jbm, london, 01/3/2011 00:39

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I hope this determined young woman recovers fully and continues her studies. Good luck to you Marian.

- Shyamini, London, UK, 28/2/2011 23:48

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Hope she has no ocular involment after a such adverse reaction. My daughter got TEN due to a medecine for fever, she was 8 years old and 7 years after, ocular & lungs lesions became chronic and they are compromising her sight & breath. .

- Claudio, Trentino-Italy, 28/2/2011 21:36

Click to rate Rating 16

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Kathryn , aberystwyth, 28/2/2011 17:06 - just wondered how many years you've been dispensing eye drops for because as a qualified Pharmacy Technician of over 20years this is the first time I've seen it?

- George Brown, Romford, Essex, 28/2/2011 18:55

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Such a shock that something so common can cause so much damage! This young lady has already had to face more than most and I hope she has a speedier recovery from now on.

- Suzanne, Geordieland, 28/2/2011 17:16

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Allergy reactions to eye medications are quite common though not usually so severe, eye consultants are aware as most eye medications including optrex have rather dangerous benzene in them. There are some safer ones available if you do your own research or shop around for alternatives such as eye bright or some natural ones with vitamin e.

- Kathryn , aberystwyth, 28/2/2011 17:06

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