The Hidden Plague

A field guide for surviving & overcoming Hidradenitis suppurativa

“Finally, a book that gives sufferers of skin-related autoimmune or systemic inflammatory conditions a way to heal themselves naturally.”
— Robb Wolf, author of The Paleo Solution

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Synopsis

Have you been plagued with boils, cysts, ingrown hairs, and acne-like bumps that take months to resolve, leave embarrassing scars, and cause considerable pain? Have you been to the doctor, only to leave with a prescription for antibiotics, few answers, and little to no hope? Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a poorly understood skin condition that is believed to affect nearly twelve million people in the United States alone. Only a small fraction of those affected have been properly diagnosed, leaving many others to suffer in silence or pursue ill-advised conventional treatment methods that fail to address the cause of this painful condition. Tara Grant, a twenty-year sufferer of HS, has become an underground legend to her Internet community of HS victims by presenting a methodical, self-tested action plan to heal naturally. The centerpiece of her holistic approach rests on the understanding that HS is an autoimmune disorder caused by leaky gut syndrome. With a few simple dietary changes that eliminate certain "trigger" foods, you can heal your gut, restore your skin, reclaim your health, and rid yourself of HS symptoms forever. That's it--no antibiotics, no experimental surgeries, and no more pain, suffering, or confusion.

Questions for Author Interviews

1. There are tons of health related books currently on the market. What was it about the subject you chose to write about in your book that made you feel so passionate about spreading the word and getting your book published? Simply put, there aren't any other books on the market about Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) -- at least not anything that the average person can understand, or that doesn't tell them anything they don't already know. My motivation for writing this book was the overwhelming response I received from people on the Internet when I originally posted about it in March of 2012. It turns out it's a pretty common condition, but many people (and doctors) don't know what it is. It's pretty standard to visit various doctors, and be told that you have "acne," or to be subjected to butchering surgeries. There is no treatment for HS, according to the doctors. People with it suffer immensely--in fact, HS is acknowledged to be one of most painful conditions in the world. I've even received letters from doctors and nurses who suffer from HS, thanking me for telling them what it is that they have--and for offering them hope. The primary motivating factor for writing this book, however, was an email I received from a 12-year old girl, who said she was going to kill herself because of the pain she was in. I immediately wrote her back, but I never heard back from her. I am desperate to know that she's okay. I don't want anyone else to go through what I did as a teenager--I myself thought about suicide on more than one occasion. I've had many letters from people who say they want to kill themselves since. They've all touched me deeply, but that 12-year old girl is never far from my thoughts.

2. HS is hard to diagnose, and many doctors aren't even aware of its existence. How did you get a diagnosis? I've had HS since I was thirteen years old, but
wasn't diagnosed until I was in my mid-30s. Up until then, I saw over forty doctors from four different countries - none of whom could tell me what was wrong with me. I eventually found the name "Hidradenitis suppurativa" in a book about PCOS (also known as polycystic ovarian syndrome, which I also had) and could finally put a name to the horrible condition I had suffered from for so long. I took that information to a dermatologist.

Book Information

File Size: 2346 KB
Print Length: 280 pages
Publisher: Primal Nutrition, Inc.; 1 edition (December 1, 2013)
Publication Date: December 1, 2013
Sold by: Digital Services LLC
Language: English
ASIN: B00H2V9ZLU
Text-to-Speech: Enabled
X-Ray: Not Enabled
Word Wise: Not Enabled
Lending: Not Enabled
Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled
Best Sellers Rank: #159,644 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Specialties > Dermatology #34 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Skin Ailments #195 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Alternative Medicine > Healing

Customer Reviews

With over 55 million Americans suffering from autoimmune disease, you would think there would be piles of money going towards research, support, and finding a cure for these debilitating conditions - especially compared to the number of those with Cancer (9 million) or heart disease (22 million). Truth is, there isn't, and most doctors have no clue how to treat a patient with autoimmunity. Even worse, they seem unable to sympathize with the emotional struggles that their patients are facing. While I don't have HS, I suffer from two autoimmune conditions (Hashimoto’s and Celiac disease) and regained my health the same way that Tara did. When I found the autoimmune protocol and the ancestral health movement, I had been bedridden for months and was at wit's end after conventional and alternative treatments lead me nowhere. I gave up my vegan diet, started
eating meat, and painfully went through the elimination process. Let me tell you folks - this was the hardest thing I had ever done, but it turned out to be the most worthwhile! I was shocked to find that most of the foods I had been consuming every day - grains, sugar, soy, and nightshades - turned out to be the biggest contributors to my symptoms. As I continued to keep these foods out of my diet, and ate plenty of nourishing foods like bone broth, organ meats, fatty fish, and colorful fruits and veggies, I made drastic improvements. So much so, that I can not remember feeling so good since I was a KID. All of my autoimmune symptoms are gone, and have been for over a year - unless I have a run in with an old enemy, like grain or cayenne, at a restaurant! This book is a life raft for anyone who is suffering from HS, or any other autoimmune disease.

Tara has done us all a great service writing The Hidden Plague. In fact, I suspect she will be able to look back on her life and consider it one of her finest achievements. Because this book doesn't just offer hope to Hidradenitis suppurativa sufferers where previously there was none. It doesn't just offer a treatment plan where previously there were very few options. Nor does it simply educate (although that's not too shabby an aim, either). The fact is that this book is for anyone who has autoimmune disease, and everyone who knows someone with Hidradenitis suppurativa. In the book she has shared her own personal story and those of many others are sprinkled throughout the book. The stories there, and on her Primalgirl blog, of isolation, lack of hope and shame are painful to read. But to her credit, Tara doesn't get maudlin or "woe is me". For such a complex subject, it an easy read, written in Tara's "tell-it-like-it-is" personal style. She is an upbeat, pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps-and-let's-get-this-thing-licked kind of gal. Tara is a journalist and she organizes her book very carefully and logically, laying out the following chapters, and covering just about everything you could possibly think of:

Chapter One: What the Frak Is HS?