

off the fence.

Medical Challenges

13 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Sjögren's Syndrome & Restless Leg Syndrome

Lucía Moreno, who suffers from Sjögren's syndrome, knows all about living with an enemy within. She's travelling a long and painful road with so many tests and hospitals that she wanted to give up.

In 1986, Consuelo Marjalizo was pregnant with her first child. She also suffered extreme anxiety that literally stopped her from resting day and night. Her limbs started moving with a will of their own...

2. Urine Retention & Wegener Syndrome

No matter how strange a disease may be, there is always a beginning, a warning sign that tells us that something is not quite right with our body. In the case of Carmen Solana, a healthy and energetic 53-year-old housewife, this was her legs. Pain began to slowly spread along her legs at the same time as strange marks began to appear on her skin.

3. Dystonia Parkinsonism & The Bragado Case

If there is one discipline where the dead help the living, it is in medicine both through organ donations, and also in research on cadavers into new healing techniques .

Jesús García Bragado is an athlete, he's among the global elite of racewalking. He could never have imagined that a corpse would influence his life to such an extent when - following a career full of success and sacrifice - starting to walk with a limp threatened his sporting future.

4. Cyst Disease & Lupus

For many doctors, and above all, for their patients, an unusual illness shows them the importance of investigating the slightest of symptoms even though it may appear to be irrelevant.

Margarita had always suffered from a disease hidden inside her body, but never knew it. Then it showed itself as an intense pain in her knees and a sensation of fatigue that was usual in a girl of her age...

5. The Joubert Syndrome & Allergy to Latex

Our immune system, with its army of white blood cells, fights on a huge battlefield. But what happens if there are no viruses or bacteria to defend against? Do they attack imaginary enemies so as to avoid being inactive?

6. Macrodactylia & Huntingdon's Disease

The processes that lead up to birth continue to be a great mystery. Perhaps one day medicine will be able to modify the future of a child even before they are conceived. But until then, any congenital anomaly represents a challenge. Johana, a young, 20-year old Columbian girl, never imagined that reconstructive surgery would influence her life so much when they told her that her second child would have to have his hands amputated.

7. Giant Tumour & Marfan Syndrome

When he was twelve years old, Nicolás Beltrán was a huge fan of comics, just like so many other children in Alicante in the 1960s. But little by little he started to partially lose his eyesight. His mother realised this when she noticed that he had ink stains on his nose from being too close to the pages of his comics.

8. Budd-Chiari Syndrome & Ehlers Danlos Syndrome

Sometimes illnesses have a silver lining. Some side-effects of ill-health make sufferers capable of doing things that no-one else is able to. Ana was always a very special little girl. She had amazing flexibility and enjoyed showing off her circus contortions in front of her friends. But her special power became a living hell.

9. Guillain Barré Syndrome & Coeliacs

Since she was a teenager, Susana Recio had suffered from a lack of iron in her body. The doctors prescribed iron supplements, but every so often her iron levels went back down again and Susana got used to living with constant medication. However a new symptom added to her illness and she did not think twice about going back to her G.P. for a consultation...

10. Kennedy Syndrome & Tourette Syndrome

Juan, a 52-year old pharmacist, had always been active, with a huge appetite for the most out of life. But all that activity brought to light a worrying series of symptoms. It started with lethargy in his legs after doing sport, or even going for a simple walk. It was a pain that Juan put down to being tired or to stress. But that wasn't the whole story.

11. Andrenoleukodystrophy & Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity

2000 does not bring back happy memories for Oriol Badell, a 59-year old man from Barcelona. While everyone else was celebrating the arrival of the 21st Century and fearing the collapse of their computers, Oriol was at the start of his own personal and painful Millennium Bug.

12. Infectious Spondylodiscitis & Brugada Syndrome

The human being has cohabited with microbes and viruses from the beginnings of time. Achievements in medicine mean that we are able to defend ourselves from them and resist their attacks, but, as in all wars, both sides learn to develop tricks that are needed to launch more aggressive attacks on the enemy.

13. Glaucoma Cornea Tattoo & Arnold Chiari Syndrome

Serendipity is the art of making lucky and unexpected discoveries by chance. On many occasions, this serendipity has been the trigger for great findings in medical science. Yolanda is 34 years-old and mother of 10 month-old twins. As a teenager, she started having severe headaches and dizziness. She also noticed a deterioration of sight that made her strain her eyes...