

HOW DOES HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA IMPACT YOUR WORK LIFE?

I am now on disability because of HS. When I was in school and working, there were many times that I had to miss work or if I was there, the quality of my work suffered from the pain and distraction.

I can't even hope to get a job outside of the house. No matter how many times I clean the wounds or shower a day, there's always pus and pain, so I smell horrid all the time. It worsens if I sweat even a little bit.

As a registered nurse I have to be very active during my 12 hr shifts. There has been times where I can't even walk or lift my arms, let alone care for patients.

I've worked from home for 2 months straight. I've been ashamed to leave. If I feel pain, I don't go anywhere and I'm in some type of pain daily.

It's too painful to walk to the bathroom let alone work. And while I'm at work, I have to change my dressing at least twice before my shift is over.

I have no control over being able to be punctual or tardy or even present. Wearing a uniform is not always an option for me on bad days. Unless I want to be in significant pain or even expose open wounds, I can't function like a normal person.

I have had 19 general anesthetic procedures for HS. Through the years I tried to plan excisions for during vacation/holidays to lessen the impact on my career. Nevertheless, I've been terminated, lost promotions, and lost income security as a result of HS.

I work as a preschool teacher and am constantly moving around and on my feet. It is very hard when I am flaring to easily move my arms because my armpits have the HS very badly. My sores will split and bleed on my clothes under my armpits and underneath my breasts.

Flare-ups are random so you cannot predict when one is coming or how bad it will be. I no longer work, I stay at home. Explaining the disease to employers is almost impossible.

Had to retire from my career due to HS. On a long term disability. Missed many days and hours of work due to the pain or the embarrassment of this disease.

I can't sit for long periods of time; therefore it's hard to drive and sit at my desk. Also, the anxiety causes panic attacks while driving and working. I often cry and can't stand explaining why I don't want to participate in learning new tasks at work - makes me feel like I am overlooked for promotions because I'm not dependable.



For more information, visit:
www.canadianskin.ca/hsreport



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