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Hannah had her operation on September 9, 1997 after extensive treatment with antibiotics for enterocolitis. Now 7 days old, she has an ileostomy because the disease claimed all of her large intestine, her colon and 5 inches of her small intestine.

Hannah remained in the hospital until October 3, 1997. We had now lost a whole month of cuddling, feeding, crying and closeness with our first baby.

Upon Hannah's discharge, we had to learn to care for her special needs, i.e., how to change a colostomy bag; take care of her stoma; measure her intake of food; and her output through her stoma.

We consulted with Dr. Deborah who informed us that, upon Hannah turning age 1, she could have the ileostomy reversed. Be able to go to the bathroom "normally", or we could keep the stoma. So we asked ourselves, what do we think Hannah would want? The chance to be "normal" or worry about having to change a broken bag in the middle of the school day? Needless to say, we chose the second operation.

May 18, 1998 was the bid day. Hannah was in surgery for 6 hours. Half the time of the first surgery. It was a success. She had enough intestine left to be pulled-through and re-connected to her rectum.

Dr. informed us that she would get a "diaper rash from hell". Boy was she right!

It is now almost a year later and Hannah's "diaper rash from hell" has still not cleared up.