

**Patient Biography:
Caitlin Augustine**

Caitlin Augustine is a recent college graduate from Long Island and a patient advocate for the North American Thrombosis Forum. Caitlin first heard of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) when she was diagnosed with the disease at 18 years of age. Her symptoms first appeared five years earlier as pelvic pain that was misdiagnosed as ovarian cysts. As a result of this diagnosis, Caitlin was prescribed birth control.

After a routine tonsillectomy in January 2007, Caitlin experienced intense pain in her abdomen. A CT scan revealed a massive DVT running from behind Caitlin's knee, through her thigh, and into her abdomen via the iliac vein. Upon diagnosis, doctors predicted that Caitlin would not survive. The clot was so large and calcified that doctors now believe it began to form when Caitlin was 9 years old, following a surgery to place a stent in her iliac vein.

Caitlin has had two additional clotting events since her initial DVT diagnosis. She has also been diagnosed with Factor V Leiden and another blood clotting disorder, Antiphospholipid Syndrome. Caitlin will be on blood thinning medication for the rest of her life. Despite being told she would not be able to return to college, Caitlin graduated on time from Quinnipiac University in May 2010. Caitlin continues to work on raising awareness of deep vein thrombosis, particularly by emphasizing the fact that DVT affects young people too.