

April 9, 2008

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am your relative\_\_\_\_\_. I am concerned that our family has a disease known as Long QT syndrome. Long QT Syndrome (LQTS) is a cardiovascular disorder characterized by an abnormality in cardiac repolarization leading to a prolonged QT interval on an EKG. The diagnosis of Long QT Syndrome (LQTS) is based on symptoms and family history. To be clinically diagnosed with LQTS, your EKG may show a prolonged corrected QT length, and you may have symptoms of fainting or near fainting. Symptoms of LQT syndrome can also include irregular heartbeats and/or palpitations. These symptoms can be worsened by emotions such as fright and anger or physical activity. Irregular heart rhythms in LQTS can be fatal. In LQTS, both the EKG findings and the clinical symptoms may vary, so that, at times, the EKG may look normal or borderline, and individuals may be without symptoms.

LQTS is inherited as an autosomal dominant disorder. This means that it is passed down in families from parent to child. However, since LQTS can be without symptoms it is unknown how many gene carriers will show symptoms of the disease

I am sending you this letter because if you do have symptoms of LQTS it is important you be seen by an electrophysiologist, a cardiologist who specializes in irregular heart rhythms. In addition, I am putting together our genetic family tree and would like to know if you or any of your family members have any signs or symptoms of Long QT syndrome.

If you are willing to share you personal and family history information with me please contact me at phone #, Address ect...

Sincerely,

NAME