A “Strep” Infection in a Young Child Case Study

When 8-year-old Tyler from West Chester, Ohio, returned from a basketball tournament in early March 2006, he had no idea what the next few days, weeks, and months had in store for him. When he awoke the next morning, he had a pain in his hip and upper leg. Suspecting the pain was associated with an unseen bump from the previous day, his father treated the symptoms. As the day progressed, the pain continued and Tyler developed a fever. As a precaution, Tyler was taken to a local medical facility for evaluation. Other than pain and continuing fever, nothing unusual was found. A test for bacterial infection was negative and he was sent home. His condition did not improve, and by midnight he had become delirious. A call to the doctor, followed by a call to 911, resulted in Tyler being admitted to the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati.

By the next morning, his condition had improved but the worst was not over. What followed was a seemingly unending array of pokes, prods, and procedures to test for “every disease imaginable” including cancer. The most significant finding was a positive test for “Strep.” A decision was made to transfer him to the ICU where he spent the next 6 weeks.

* *What is the organism commonly referred to as “Strep”?*
* *What conditions are usually associated with this organism?*